WASHTENAW JEWISH NEWS

October 2007 Tishrei/ Cheshvan 5768 Volume XXXII: Number 2 FREE

JTS chancellor speaks on Conservative movement

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Arnold M. Eisen, the newly installed chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will be welcomed as a guest speaker at Beth Israel Congregation on Wednesday, October 17 at 8 p.m. Chancellor

Arnold M. Eisen

Eisen will present his thoughts on the Conservative Movement, its uniqueness and its challenges for the future.

Chancellor Eisen's visit to Ann Arbor during the first months of his tenure is a unique opportunity for members of Beth Israel and the larger community to learn from him and to engage in a dialogue about the issues facing Jews in general and Conservative Jews in particular in the 21st century. Members of the community are encouraged to attend.

Chancellor Eisen is recognized as one of the world's foremost experts on American Judaism. He has worked closely for the past 20 years with synagogue and federation leadership around the country to analyze and address the issues of Jewish identity, the revitalization of Jewish tradition, and the redefinition of the American Jewish community.

A product of the Conservative Movement, Chancellor Eisen has regularly served as a faculty member of the Wexner Heritage Program, the Wexner Fellowship, and the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He has served, and is now serving again, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency and has long been known as a passionate advocate of strengthening the connection between American Jews and Israel. Founded in 1886 as a rabbinical school, The Jewish Theological Seminary today is the academic and spiritual center of Conservative Judaism worldwide, encompassing a world-class library and five schools.

Chancellor Eisen's publications include a personal essay, *Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America* (1997); a historical work entitled *Rethinking Modern Judaism: Ritual, Commandment, Community* (1998); and *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America* (2000), co-authored with sociologist Steven M. Cohen. He is currently at work on a book that probes new possibilities for the meaning of Zionism.

Chancellor Eisen received a Ph.D. in the history of Jewish thought from Hebrew University; a B.Phil. in the sociology of religion at Oxford University; and a B.A. in religious thought from the University of Pennsylvania. Before assuming his role as chancellor, he was the Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion at Stanford University. He previously served as senior lecturer in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, and assistant professor in the Department of Religion at Columbia University.

A dessert reception will follow Chancellor Eisen's remarks. There is no charge to attend the October 17 event, which is open to the public. For more information or to support the Jewish Theological Seminary, contact Beth Israel at 663-05543, or JTS Great Lakes Regional director, Tom Wexelberg-Clouser, at (248) 258-0055, toclouser@jtsa.edu or visit the new JTS website at www.jtsa.edu. ■

Darfur Benefit set for October 1 at Melange Bistro

Emily Eisbruch, staff writer

Ann Arborite Aviva Simonte became an activist because of what she learned about the crisis in Darfur when family members attended the 2006 "Rally to Stop Genocide" in Washington D.C. Simonte is the organizer of a benefit to help the people of Darfur and raise awareness of the crisis situation in Sudan. The event, to be held on Monday, October 1 from 6-8 p.m. at Mélange Bistro, is being supported by the Michigan Darfur Coalition. There will be both education and discussion; a presentation on the current situation in Darfur will begin at 6:45 pm.

Simonte explains that when her parents and brother (a Reconstructionist rabbi in Cleveland) reported what they had learned at the 2006 Washington D.C. conference, it took several months of hearing and learning more to truly understand the direness of the situation. But she comments that once she became educated, "It moved me to take action in a way that nothing ever has—and I believe it all goes back to my own feelings about the Holocaust and that something like that could not be allowed to happen again."

Simonte grew up in a small Jewish community in Flint. She was bat mitzvah, but dropped out of Hebrew School prior to confirmation. She notes that "even as my interest in Judaism ebbed and flowed over my adult life—the Holocaust always touched me in a way that filled me with sadness and anger… I was raised to believe if you see an injustice being done, you have to take action and that is what I am trying to do."

So far, 2.5 million people in Darfur have fled their homes and are living in displace-

Continued on page 2

Maimonides Society welcomes Dr. Avi Yisraeli, director general for the Ministry of Health of Israel

Jeffrey Lazor, special to the WJN

Dr. Avi Yisraeli, director general for the Ministry of Health of Israel will speak at the University of Michigan's Depression Center on Thursday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to all physicians, dentists and house officers in the Washtenaw County area and is sponsored by the Jewish Federation's Maimonides Society.

Dr. Avi Yisraeli

The Maimonides Society is a national movement that recognizes physicians and dentists as holding an honored position in the community. The Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County established the chapter of the Maimonides Society in order to recognize, honor, and strengthen that status. The Society supports the bonds between health care professionals, the Jewish community, and Israel through educational, social, and philanthropic activities. "It is our hope that we can build Washtenaw County's Maimonides Society into a very strong, dedicated and energetic group which supports local medical projects as well as those in Israel. We are especially looking forward to seeing younger colleagues—medical students and house officers—take leadership roles in this group," remarked Dr. Michelle Riba, co-chair of the Maimonides Society.

The 2008 Maimonides Campaign Event represents a unique opportunity for our physicians, dentists and house officers to learn about the most pressing issues in Israeli healthcare with a special emphasis on emergency care and disaster preparedness from the expert himself, Dr. Avi Yisraei.

Dr. Yisraeli received his M.D. at Hebrew University's Hadassah Medical School, his MBA at the Sloan School of Management at MIT and a MPH at Hebrew University. Dr. Yisraeli is board certified in internal medicine and Medical Management Administration. Previously, Dr. Yisraeli served as a senior lecturer in internal medicine and was the head of

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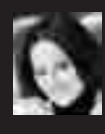
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Ann Arbor Hadassah hosts Regional Conference

WJN *staff writers*

Members from all over the Central Region of Hadassah will gather in Ann Arbor, October 19–21, at the Regional Fall Conference. The theme for the weekend is "A Family of Women," gathering together under the "Rent Tent." The National Conference Advisor is Katie Edelstein, national coordinator of the Leadership, Education and Training Center at Hadassah and local Conference Chair is Eileen Thacker. Journalist Barbara Sofer, Israel director of public relations and communications director for Hadassah, will be the scholar-in-residence. Other presenters include local Young Judaeans, Temple Beth Emeth Cantor Annie Rose and Representative Liz Brater.

As an added incentive, the Ann Arbor chapter will reimburse every member and Associate member $25 for attending. The conference will be take place at the Campus Inn. If you have not yet received an invitation and would like to participate, contact Eileen Thacker at 302-1810 or tethacker@yahoo.com. ■

Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood

Marv Wagner, special to the WJN

Meeting at Classic Cup Cafe

The Temple Beth Emeth Brotherhood's first General Meeting of the year will be held on Sunday October 14 from 3–5 p.m. at Classic Cup Café, 4389 Jackson Road. The group will discuss current events and plan the future calendar of events. Interested community members are invited to attend this free event. RSVP to Marv (358-9149) or George (665-6655).

Katz & Company Concert—Klezmer, Classical, and more

Join the TBE Brotherhood on Saturday October 27 at 8 p.m. for an evening of great music, featuring the Brotherhood's own Ralph Katz and selected musicians. This evening will be a wonderful time to hear great klezmer, classical music, and more. The cost is $10 each for the evening and a reception to follow. Send a check to the TBE office made out to "Brotherhood" and noted for the concert, or pay at the door.

TBE Brotherhood website

Check out the new and improved brotherhood website www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood for the most up to date calendar of events and see photos of our softball team, shul tours, and much more. From the website, it is easy to download a membership form to send in with the yearly dues payment of $36.00. ■

Darfur, from page 1

ment camps; as many as 400,000 are dead, hundreds of thousands of women and children are being raped. "Each of us can make a difference, but it takes all of us to stand up and say 'this cannot be allowed to go on' and create a unified voice which is impossible to ignore." According to Simonte, the benefit aims to make more local people aware and to touch them in a way that they too will take some kind of action to end what is happening in Darfur. At the benefit, there will be a discussion of ways for those interested to get involved in local action. ■

Tickets for the October 1 benefit are $30 per person. Hors d'oeuvres, beer, and wine will be served. The ticket price is not tax deductible, but donations will be accepted at the door for those wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution. Mélange Bistro is at 314 South Main Street, Ann Arbor. For further information, contact Aviva Simonte by phone at 320-6715 or email at avivasegar@aol.com.

Maimonides, from page 1

the department of Health Policy and Management at Hebrew University. Dr. Yisraeli also served as the director general for the Hadassah Medical Organization prior to his current appointment to the Ministry of Health.

Participants who attend this Maimonides Campaign Event will have the opportunity to make their gift to the Federation's 2008 Annual Campaign. Tours of the acclaimed Depression Center will be available from 6:30–6:45 p.m. Appetizers will be served. Event tickets can be purchased by visiting www.jewishannarbor.org/yisraeli and cost $18 for all physicians and dentists; medical students and house officers will be admitted free. ■

For more information, contact Jeffrey Lazor by phone at 677-0100 or email jefflazor@jewishannarbor.org.

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The deadline for the November 2007 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Tuesday, October 9.
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Extra copies of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.

Jewish Book Festival November 11–18

Halye Aisner and Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will hold its annual Jewish Book Festival November 11–18 at the JCC. Alice Fishman, Fran Martin, Lisa Molnar and Esther Ullman are chairs of the event, which is supported by the Fred and Ned Shure Endowment. Many exciting authors are scheduled to speak during the week at noontime Lunch and Learn events and Monday through Thursday evenings, as well as both Sundays.

Sunday, November 11

11 a.m., Jacqueline Jules

Jacqueline Jules, a featured author of the PJ Library program, is known widely for her series of children's books about The Ziz, "Who is the Ziz? He is the king of all the birds–a large and fabulous creature who lived long, long ago in Jewish mythology. Whenever the Ziz has a problem, he goes to Mount Sinai to seek God's advice" sya her books. Titles include *The Ziz and the Hanukah Miracle* and *Noah and the Ziz*. Her most recent children's book, *Abraham's Search for God* asks the question, how did Abraham become known as the father of Judaism, Christianity and Islam? Jules offers a picture-book-style answer, as she imagines the religious figure as a child questioning the practices of the day and embracing the bold idea of "One God."

Jacqueline Jules

Jacqueline Jules graduated from the University of Pittsburgh where she received her B.A. degree in writing. For five years, she taught Holocaust studies to seventh and eighth graders. Jacqueline Jules' other titles include *The Hardest Word, Once Upon a Shabbos, Clap and Count* and *No English*. Her poetry and prose have appeared in over 60 publications including *Highlights, Cricket, Cicada, Spider,* and Ladybug. Currently she works as a librarian in a public elementary school in Falls Church, Virginia.

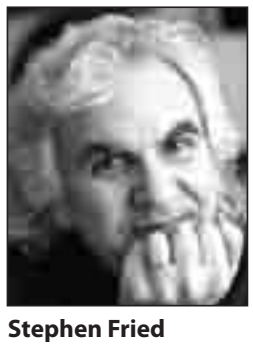
This will be an interactive program for young children and their families.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and Temple Beth Emeth.

Sunday, November 11

7 p.m., Stephen Fried

Stephen Fried, author of *HUSBANDRY: Sex, Love, and Dirty Laundry-Inside the Minds of Married Men* tells how in 2003, *Ladies Home Journal* asked this investigative journalist to go on a mission to try to explain to their readers why married men act in the maddening ways they do. Some matters would be seemingly inconsequential, while some would be obviously life-altering (although Fried has learned that to wives, they're all equally important). The result has been an enormously popular monthly column in which he offers a glimpse into what he calls "the secret minds of married men." Now, in *HUSBANDRY: Sex, Love, and Dirty Laundry—Inside the Minds of Married Men*, thirty-one of Fried's provocative, wise and often hilarious essays have been collected in a single book.



Stephen Fried

In *HUSBANDRY*, Fried draws on 20 years worth of his and his wife's marital experiences, interviews with other husbands and countless studies on the science of relationships to explain (or apologize for) the actions (and inactions) of married men. His essays document their mysterious and often frustrating behaviour—in love, in friendship, in the bedroom, in the house (kitchen, closets, and bathrooms) and even in the locker room with their buddies. From the tortures of marital snoring to coping with the dishwasher, remembering to leave the toilet seat down or landing those dirty socks in the hamper, no subject is out of bounds as Fried reveals the dailynesses of intimacy, of marriage, of love, of good times and bad. He is also the author of *The New Rabbi.*

Monday, November 12

Noon, Pierre Epstein

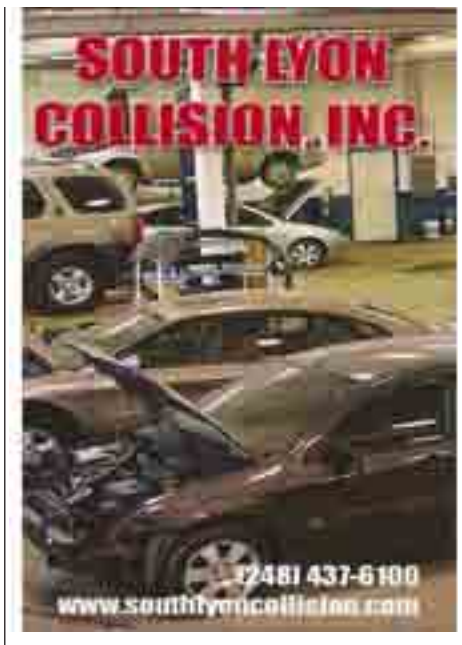
Pierre Epstein is the author of *Abraham Epstein: The Forgotten Father of Social Security*, a solid biography of the American social reformer who permanently transformed the responsibilities of the federal government and was instrumental in instituting the nigh-unassailable institution of Social Security. Abraham Epstein, a Russian Jewish immigrant, was a major figure in American social reform in the first half of the 20th century. His name and his theories appear in almost every book written on Social Security and the New Deal, but a full account of his own life has never been made.

Pierre Epstein

This engaging book fills a major gap in the historical record, showing that Social Security is more than a technical subject about finance and actuarial statistics, that it is primarily a human idea with deep philosophical roots.

Written by Abraham Epstein's son, Pierre Epstein, the book is a unique blend of memoir and intellectual history. Occasional black-and-white photographs illustrate this heavily researched, smoothly presented true-life story.

Pierre, a native New Yorker, grew up in Greenwich Village, and has had a successful acting career. He has appeared in numerous films, TV programs and fifteen Broadway shows, having worked with such luminaries as Laurence Olivier, Franco Zefirelli and Harold Clurman. He has been honored with a Screen Actors Guild Award, an Obie Award and the Dramalogue Award. These days he is easily recognizable as the rabbi who counselled and converted Charlotte to Judaism, in the popular HBO series *Sex and the City.*



Jewish Book Festival

Monday, November 12

7:30 p.m., Charlotte Mendelson

Charlotte Mendelson is the author of *When We Were Bad*, an incredibly funny yet deeply humane novel about a glamorous London family that happens to be falling apart. Everything is in order in the house of Rubin. This marvellous, dynastic Jewish family is getting ready to marry off their perfect eldest son, Leo. History, community, even gastronomy all unite the guests lucky enough to attend this joyous occasion. But when the groom—one minute before exchanging vows—bolts with the wrong woman, the myths that have defined this family start to take on darker overtones. Mendelson's satiric eye, which in her two earlier novels had won her comparisons to the writing of Evelyn Waugh, is on full display here. But in these pages, she is also describing a world rarely explored in British society: the complicated, singular world of English Jews who often wear their Jewishness uneasily amidst an Anglican culture.

Charlotte Mendelson

Charlotte Mendelson works in British publishing as an acquiring editor. She is the author of two highly praised novels: *Daughters of Jerusalem* and *Love in Idleness.* In winning two awards designed to spot talent in writers under the age of 35 (the Somerset Maugham Award and John Llewellyn Rhys Prize), as well as being shortlisted for the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award, Mendelson joins the company of writers such as David Mitchell, Ian McEwan and Zadie Smith.

Sponsored by Hadassah and ORT.

Tuesday, November 13

Noon, Dennis Ross

Dennis Ross, the U.S. chief Middle East envoy during both the George H. W. Bush (the elder Bush) and Bill Clinton administrations, brings us his latest book, *Statecraft: And How to Restore America's Standing in the World.*

Dennis Ross

How did it come to pass that, not so long after 9/11 brought the free world to our side, U.S. foreign policy is in a shambles? In this thought-provoking book, the renowned peace negotiator Dennis Ross argues that the Bush administration's problems stem from its inability to use the tools of statecraft—diplomatic, economic, and military—to advance our interests.

Statecraft is as old as politics: Plato wrote about it, Machiavelli practiced it. After the demise of Communism, some predicted that statecraft would wither away. But Ross explains that in the globalized world—with its fluid borders, terrorist networks, and violent unrest—statecraft is necessary simply to keep the peace.

In illuminating chapters, Ambassador Ross outlines how statecraft helped shape a new world order after 1989. He shows how the failure of statecraft in Iraq and the Middle East has undercut the United States internationally and makes clear that only statecraft can check the rise of China and the danger of a nuclear Iran. Ross draws on his expertise to reveal the art of successful negotiation and he shows how the next president could resolve today's problems and define a realistic, ambitious foreign policy.

A 1970 graduate of UCLA, Ambassador Ross wrote his doctoral dissertation on Soviet decision-making, and from 1984 to 1986 served as executive director of the Berkeley-Stanford program on Soviet International Behavior. He has received UCLA's highest medal and has been named UCLA alumni of the year. He has also received honorary doctorates from the Jewish Theological Seminary and Syracuse University.

Ambassador Dennis Ross is a Ziegler distinguished fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. For more than twelve years, Ambassador Ross played a leading role in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process and in dealing directly with the parties in negotiations. Dennis Ross is currently a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.

Tuesday, November 13

7:30 p.m., Judy Bart Kancigor

Judy Bart Kancigor is the author of *Cooking Jewish*. Mixing warm stories of the author's Rabinowitz family with the treasure of five generations of recipes, Kancigor's book is home cooking at its best. She has collected 532 traditional and untraditional recipes from her large and wacky clan and interweaved them with over 160 family stories and more than 500 photographs reaching back to the 19th century.

Judy Bart Kancigor

Cooking Jewish blends the old with the new, the sweet with the savory, the recipes with the stories behind them. Kancigor and more than 200 family members leave no Jewish food stone unturned. She speaks to the Jewish food lover in us all, from anyone who ever stood on a chair to help Mom cut out butter cookies to non-Jews preparing their first Jewish holiday meal.

Judy Bart Kancigor is a feature writer for the *Orange County Register*, the *Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles* and the *Canadian Jewish News*, a food columnist for the *Register* and a popular teacher of Jewish cooking and family life. Daughter of the late singer Jan Bart, Judy has delighted audiences across the country, appearing for many organizations, synagogues and cooking schools. She lives with her husband, Barry, in Fullerton, California. There will also be a cooking demonstration as part of the program.

Wednesday, November 14

Noon, Ruth Behar

Ruth Behar, author of *An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba*, tells the story of how Yiddish-speaking Jews thought Cuba was supposed to be a mere layover on the journey to the United States when they arrived in the island country in the 1920s. They even called it "Hotel Cuba." But then the years passed and the many Jews who came there from Turkey, Poland and war-torn Europe decided to stay. The beloved island ceased to be a hotel and Cuba eventually became "home". When Fidel Castro came to power in 1959 however, the majority of the Jews opposed his communist regime and left in a mass exodus. Though they remade their lives in the United States, they mourned the loss of the Jewish community they had built on the island.

Ruth Behar

As a child of five, Ruth Behar was caught up in this Jewish exodus from Cuba. Growing up in the United States, she wondered about the Jews who stayed behind. Who were they and why had they stayed? What traces were left of the Jewish presence, of the cemeteries, synagogues and Torahs? Who was taking care of this legacy? What Jewish memories had managed to survive the years of revolutionary atheism?

An Island Called Home is the story of Behar's journey back to the island to find answers to these questions. Unlike the exotic image projected by the American media, Behar uncovers a side of Cuban Jews that is poignant and personal. Her moving vignettes of the individuals she meets are coupled with the sensitive photographs of Havana-based photographer Humberto Mayol, who travelled with her.

Together, Behar's poetic and compassionate prose and Mayol's shadowy and riveting photographs create an unforgettable portrait of a community that many have seen though few have understood. This book is the first to show both the vitality and the heartbreak that lie behind the project of keeping alive the flame of Jewish memory in Cuba.

Ruth Behar is a professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan. The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Fellows award, she is the author of *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart* and director of the documentary, *Adio Kerida: A Cuban Sephardic Journey.*

Sponsored by the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.

Wednesday, November 14

Noon, Gina Nahai

Author Gina Nahai brings us *Caspian Rain*, the tragic tale of a young Jewish-Iranian girl in Tehran who is slowly going deaf, and the devastating effect her illness has on her mother who, having been unhappily married and denied an education, is desperately pinning all her hopes on her daughter. The two women's disappointments find brilliant reflection in Tehran itself; a city peopled with stifling patriarchs, petty socialites, bicycle-riding ghosts, failed opera singers and an overriding sense that destiny cannot be outrun.

Gina Nahai

Gina Nahai is the best-selling author of *Sunday's Silence, Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* (finalist for the Orange Prize), and Cry of the Peacock. She is also a contributing author to *The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt*, which won the 2005 Jewish Book Award. Her novels have been translated into 16 languages and have been studied at a wide variety of educational establishments. Nahai's writings have appeared in many national publications and she has acted as a judge for the *LA Times* Book Awards. She is also a frequent lecturer on Middle East politics and has been a guest host on NPR. Currently Gina Nahai is a professor of creative writing at the University of Southern California.

Sponsored by Phyllis and David Herzig.

Wednesday, November 14

7:30 p.m., Alana Newhouse

Alana Newhouse is the editor of *A Living Lens: Photographs of Jewish Life from the Pages of The Forward*, a book which archives the "remarkable visual history of Jewish life during one of its most dynamic centuries, as seen through the lens of the newspapers that have been there every step of the way."

Alana Newhouse

On April 22, 1897, the very first issue of the Yiddish-language *Jewish Daily Forward* hit the newsstands and gave voice to an entire culture—the vibrant Jewish community that grew up on New York's Lower East Side. For over 100 years, immigrants and native New Yorkers read about the world—and themselves—in its pages. Known by its audience and creators as the *Forverts*, the articles and photographs showed readers the way life really was, from the push-carts and markets of the urban ghetto, to the Polish shtetl, to the lives of Jewish film stars and early immigrants to Palestine.

On the eve of the newspaper's 100th anniversary, its staff made an amazing discovery: a wealth of files of old photographs, letters, keepsakes, and documents chronicling generations of Jewish life in America and in the world. In *A Living Lens*, we, too, get a glimpse of this unparalleled cultural treasure trove.

Alana Newhouse is the Arts & Culture editor at the *Forward.*

Thursday, November 15

Noon, Samuel Kassow

In his book, *Who Will Write Our History?: Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw Ghetto*), author Samuel Kassow tells how in 1940, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum established a clandestine organization, code named Oyneg Shabes, in Nazi-occupied Warsaw. This group's mission was to study and document all facets of Jewish life in wartime Poland and to compile an archive

Samuel Kassow

that would preserve this history for posterity. As the Final Solution unfolded, although decimated by murders and deportations, the group persevered in its work until the spring of 1943. Of its more than 60 members, only three survived. Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944. But before he died, he managed to hide thousands of documents in milk cans and tin boxes. Searchers found two of these buried caches in 1946 and 1950.

Who Will Write Our History tells the gripping story of Ringelblum and his determination to use historical scholarship and the collection of documents to resist Nazi oppression.

Samuel D. Kassow is the Charles Northam Professor of History at Trinity College. He is author of *Students, Professors, and the State in Tsarist Russia, 1884-1917* and editor (with Edith W. Clowes) of *Between Tsar and People: The Search for a Public Identity in Tsarist Russia.* He lives in Hartford, Connecticut.

Sponsored by Beth Israel Congregation.

Thursday, November 15

7:30 p.m., Naftali Bendavid

Naftali Bendavid, author of *The Thumpin': How Rahm Emanuel and the Democratic Party Learned to be Ruthless and Ended the Republican Revolution*, tells the story of how during the 2006 midterm elections, the Democratic party ended 12 years of electoral humiliation by seizing back Congress and putting an end to Republican rule. *The Thumpin'* is the story of that historic victory and the man at the center on whom Democratic hopes hinged: Congressman Rahm Emanuel, head of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

Naftali Bendavid

Chicago Tribune reporter Naftali Bendavid had exclusive access to Emanuel and the DCCC in the year and a half leading up to the elections and ended up with the story of a lifetime, the thrilling blow-by-blow account of how Emanuel remade the campaign in his own ferocious image. Responsible for everything from handpicking Congressional candidates to raising money for attack ads, Emanuel, a talented ballet dancer better known in Washington for his extraordinary intensity and his inexhaustible torrents of profanity, threw out the playbook on the way Democrats run elections. *The Thumpin'* takes us inside the key races and the national strategy-making that moved the Democrats from forecasted gains of three seats in 2005 to a sweeping gain of thirty seats when the votes were finally counted. Through this masterful account of Rahm's rout, Bendavid shows how the lessons the Democrats learned in 2006—to fight for every vote, to abandon litmus tests, and to take no prisoners—will be crucial to the party's future electoral success, and shape the political course the nation will take in the twenty-first century.

Naftali Bendavid is deputy Washington bureau chief for the *Chicago Tribune*. Since coming to the *Tribune* in 1997, he has served as the paper's Justice Department correspondent and White House correspondent. He played a central role in the paper's coverage of the Ken Starr impeachment investigation, the contested 2000 election, and the September 11 attacks. Bendavid has also worked at several other papers, including the Miami Herald and Legal Times. He lives outside Washington, D.C., with his wife and two children.

There will be a dinner reception for Book Festival sponsors preceding Bendavid's appearance. The talk is free and open to the public.

Friday, November 16

Noon, Andrei S. Markovits

No survey can capture the breadth and depth of the anti-Americanism that has swept Europe in recent years. From ultraconservative Bavarian grandmothers to 30-year-old socialist activists in Greece, from globalization opponents to corporate executives—Europeans are joining in an ever louder chorus of disdain for America. For the first time, anti-Americanism has become a European lingua franca.

Andrei S. Markovits

In *Uncouth Nation: Europe Dislikes America*, a sweeping and provocative look at the history of European aversion to America, Andrei Markovits argues that understanding the ubiquity of anti-Americanism since September 11, 2001, requires an appreciation of such sentiments among European elites going back at least to July 4, 1776.

While George W. Bush's policies have catapulted anti-Americanism into overdrive, particularly in Western Europe, Markovits argues that this loathing has long been driven not by what America does, but by what it is. Focusing on seven Western European countries big and small, he shows how antipathies toward things American embrace aspects of everyday life—such as sports, language, work, education, media, health, and law—that remain far from the purview of the Bush administration's policies. Aggravating Europeans' antipathies toward America is their alleged helplessness in the face of an Americanization that they view as inexorably befalling them.

More troubling, Markovits argues, is that this anti-Americanism has cultivated a new strain of anti-Semitism. Above all, he shows that while Europeans are far apart in terms of their everyday lives and shared experiences, their not being American provides them with a powerful common identity—one that elites have already begun to harness in their quest to construct a unified Europe to rival America.

Andrei S. Markovits is the Karl W. Deutsch Collegiate Professor of Comparative Politics and German Studies at the University of Michigan. He is also a recent recipient of the prestigious Golden Apple Award. Markovits is the author of six books, including *The German Predicament* and, most recently, *Offside: Soccer and American Exceptionalism.*

*Sponsored by Temple Beth Emet*h

Sunday, November 18

12:30 p.m. , Joyce Antler

Joyce Anter is the author of *You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother.* Here she provides an illuminating and often amusing history of one of the best-known figures in popular culture—the Jewish mother. Whether drawn as self-sacrificing or manipulative in countless films, novels, radio and television programs, stand-up comedy and psychological and historical studies, she appears as a colossal figure, intensely involved in the lives of her children. Antler traces the odyssey of this compelling personality through decades of American culture. She reminds us of a time when Jewish mothers were admired for their tenacity and nurturance, as in the early twentieth-century image of the "Yiddishe Mama," a sentimental figure popularized by entertainers such as George Jessel, Al Jolson, and Sophie Tucker, and Gertrude Berg. Continually revised and reinvented, the Jewish mother becomes in Antler's expert hands a unique lens with which to examine vital concerns of American Jews and the culture at large.

Joyce Anter

Joyce Antler is the Samuel Lane Professor of American Jewish History and Culture at Brandeis University. She is the author or editor of eight books, including *The Journey Home: How Jewish Women Shaped Modern America* and *Talking Back: Images of Jewish Women in Popular Culture*. She lives in Brookline, Massachusetts, with her husband, and is the mother of two daughters. A lunch will be held at 12:30 p.m. and the talk will take place after the lunch. There is a cost for the lunch but the talk is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by Jewish Family Services Older Adult Services.

Sunday, November 18

4 p.m., Heidi Smith Hyde

Heidi Smith Hyde, a featured author of the PJ Library program, is the author of *Mendel's Accordion*, which recounts the rebirth, and adaptation of the vibrant musical tradition of klezmer in a children's picture book, at the same time giving a glimpse into the universal immigrant experience in America. The story follows Mendel, a klezmer musician, from his village in Melnitze to the big city of New York. Though immigrants brought few possessions with them to America, Jewish traditions like klezmer music will live on for generations.

Heidi Smith Hyde

Heidi Smith Hyde is a graduate of Brandeis University and Harvard Graduate School of Education. A former religious school teacher, she is currently the director of education of Temple Sinai in Brookline, Massachusetts. She and her husband, Martin, reside in Chestnut Hill with their two teenage sons, both of whom are klezmer musicians.

There will also be a special performance by the Klez Kidz. Sponsored by Hebrew Day School, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and Temple Beth Emeth.

Sunday, November 18

7:30 p.m., Steven Lee Beeber

Steven Lee Beeber's book, *The Heebie-Jeebies at CBGB's: A Secret History of Jewish Punk* is based in part on the recent interviews with more than 125 people—among them Tommy Ramone, Chris Stein (Blondie), Lenny Kaye (Patti Smith Group), Hilly Kristal (CBGBs owner), and John Zorn—this book focuses on punk's beginnings in New York City to show that punk was the most Jewish of rock movements, in both makeup and attitude. As it originated in Manhattan's Lower East Side in the early 1970s, punk rock was the apotheosis of a Jewish cultural tradition that found its ultimate expression in the generation born after the Holocaust. Beginning with Lenny Bruce, "the patron saint of punk," and following pre-punk progenitors such as Lou Reed, Jonathan Richman, Suicide, and The Dictators, this fascinating mixture of biography, cultural studies, and musical analysis delves into the lives of these and other Jewish punks—including Richard Hell and Joey Ramone—to create a fascinating historical overview of the scene. Reflecting the irony, romanticism, and, above all, the humor of the Jewish experience, this tale of changing Jewish identity in America reveals the conscious and unconscious forces that drove New York Jewish rockers to reinvent themselves—and popular music.

Steven Lee Beeber

Steven Lee Beeber has written for many publications, including *Bridge, Conduit, Fiction, Heeb, Maxim, MOJO, The New York Times, The Paris Review, Playboy.com, Rain Taxi,* and *Spin.* He is the editor of *Awake: A Reader for the Sleepless*, an anthology featuring work by writers including Margaret Atwood, Aimee Bender, Joyce Carol Oates, and Davy Rothbart.

Note: Sponsors mentioned are as of press time.

Jewish Book Festival
Local Authors Event
Sunday, November 18
10 am – Noon
Featured Local Authors
Ilana Blumberg
Amy Colton
Daryl Hafter
Alicia Kent
Joanne Leonard
Geraldine Markel
S. David Nathanson
and Wendy Goldberg
Anita Norich
Julie Orringer
Shachar Pinsker
Mitchell Rycus
Gabriel Weinreich
For the LOVE of BOOKS
Watch for information about our local authors in the next Washtenaw Jewish News

A celebration of Jewish mothers

Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services' Older Adult Services department will present "A Celebration of Jewish Mothers – No Guilt Necessary!" as its annual Book Festival Event, held in conjunction with the JCC Book Festival, on November 18 from 12:30–3:30 p.m. This catered lunch event will feature Joyce Antler, professor of American Jewish history and culture at Brandeis University, who will discuss her illuminating and entertaining book, You Never Call! *You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother.*

Musical entertainment around the theme of Jewish motherhood will make for a truly memorable afternoon. If you are a Jewish mother of any age—or if you have ever loved (or been loved by) a Jewish mother—this event is for you!

Everyone is familiar with the negative stereotypes of Jewish mothers. (Quick – How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb? Everyone together: "None—I'll just sit here in the dark.") Jewish moms have been portrayed as overprotective, over-involved, neurotic, anxious, self-sacrificing to the point of being manipulative, and, of course, guilt-inducing. As Antler points out, such stereotypes emerged out of the Catskills and "Borscht Belt" brand of humor in the early-to-mid-20th century, when Jews were grappling with immigration and acculturation, Old World values vs. American independence, and changing gender roles. Why, however, have such unflattering stereotypes endured? Do Jewish mothers deserve the bad rap they've received in popular culture?

Antler asks, "As with all stereotypes, we must ask to what degree the Jewish mother stereotype misses the complexity and diversity of real Jewish mothers?" Less familiar than the colossal and overbearing Jewish mother caricature is a more nuanced and realistic Jewish mother figure whose defining features instead include being nurturing, strong, loving, and dedicated.

Where do the Jewish mothers in your life fit? Jewish Family Services invites you to share stories, photos, or even a special recipe that typifies the Jewish mother in your life (see JFS advertisement in this issue). Entries will be compiled in our JFS calendar and distributed to all participants at the "Celebration of Jewish Mothers – No Guilt Necessary!" event. Don't miss this opportunity to make your mother a calendar girl.

Join Jewish Family Services on November 18 for an entertaining exploration of the history of the Jewish mother throughout decades of American popular culture, from Molly Goldberg to Sophie Portnoy to real stories of Jewish moms today. Jewish mothers—and those who love them—are the guests of honor at this celebration. For more information or registration details, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at JFS, 769-0209. ■

Jewish Hikers of Michigan meet monthly

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) invites the community to join in some terrific (and not demanding) new hikes in the Ann Arbor metro area. Led by Eli Avny, the group has traversed several of Ann Arbor's Green Map trails. In the past, the group has partnered with the Natural Area Preservation and the Leslie Science Center, bringing guides to educate participants about the greenery around them. JHOM is sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth's Caring Community and is open to anyone. All adult couples, singles and children are welcome. Several participants have come from the greater Detroit area to join a diverse group that joins together for this great workout. The group provides a great way to meet people with common interests.

The hikes take place on a monthly basis on different trails in the local area. All skill levels are welcome, and each hike lasts approximately 1-1/2 to 2 hours. Participants are encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. For further information, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645, email jewish.hikers@gmail.com, or visit http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan.

Upcoming hikes with Jewish Hikers of Michigan:

Sunday, October 14 at 1 p.m.
Sunday, November 18 at 1 p.m.
A Tu B'shevat hike on Sunday, January 27, 2–4 p.m.
Locations to be announced.

Jewish Ann Arbor Singles Party: save the date

Roann Altman, special to the WJN

Jewish Ann Arbor Singles (JAAS) will kick off the new year with a singles party on Saturday night, November 10, from 8–11 p.m. JAAS events are a great opportunity for Jewish singles aged 40 and over to socialize and make friends with other local singles. The opening event last year attracted over 40 people from southeast Michigan, northern Ohio, and Windsor. With the Toledo singles group joining the group this year, even more new people are expected to attend.

The event will be held at Beth Israel Congregation's Garfunkel-Schteingart Activities Center Lounge (2010 Washtenaw Ave.). Snacks, desserts, and hot and cold beverages will be provided. Reservations are appreciated by November 7. The cost is $10.00, or $7.50 if paid by November 2. To RSVP for the party or receive further details about this and future events, send an email with your name, address, and phone number to j_aa_s@yahoo.com or call 483-8352. ■

SPICE* of Life

***Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Mondays

11 a.m–Noon. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar. $4 or 3 for $10.
Noon. Dairy Lunch Buffet. $3.
12:30 p.m. New American Club. ESL Class for Russian Seniors.
1–2:30 p.m. Writing group will meet Mondays, October 15 and 29.

October 1: Singing with Bob.1–2:30 p.m. Bob Sims will be back to accompany us on old songs, Broadway musical numbers and Jewish favorites.

October 8: Healing the Wounds of Declining Abilities. 1-2:30 pm NCCAP Certified Activities Consultant Amira Choukair Tame will discuss therapeutic and stimulating activities for seniors and their caretakers.

October 22: Yiddish Open House 1-2 p.m. Film Apples and Raisins: The Yiddish Cinema narrated by Orson Welles. Preceded by 10 minute Yiddish lesson with Nelly Ullman.

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Pre-**Mahj brown bag**
Noon. Mah Jongg.
10 a.m–noon. September 11 through October 30. Class: The Bible in its Time with Dr. Lizbeth Fried
Dr. Fried will continue her Emeritus classes through WCC. The classes are free to adults over age 60, but they must sign up for the course through Washtenaw Community College. Classes are held at JCC, 971-0990.

Wednesday, October 10:
Matinee Musicale
1:30 p.m. refreshments; 2 p.m. performance: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet performs in honor of Daniel Pearl Day. Cost: $7/person. The Matinée Musicale Series is a multiple-concert recital series of classical music presented by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Music Director Arie Lipsky and the A2SO's brass, string, and woodwind ensembles.

Thursdays

10–11 a.m. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar. $4 or 3 for $10.
11 a.m –Noon. Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news.
Noon. Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet. $3.
12:30 p.m. New American Club. ESL Class for Russian Seniors
1–2 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations (see below for details).
2:15 – 3:15 p.m. Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky.

Thursday presentations:

October 4: JCC is closed

October 11: Michael Homel, EMU professor of history will present "The Rise of Early Jazz."

October 18: Barry Checkoway, U-M Professor of Social Work will present a program on community engagement.

October 25: Sherri Kantor will make Alaskan gefilte fish with us and talk about her trip toAlaska.

Friday special events

October 12: 5–7 p.m. Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center present a Senior Shabbat Dinner at JCC. Join us in a delicious meal, musical accompaniment and a short Senior-oriented Shabbat service. $15 meal. Call the front desk at JCC, 971-0990 to make a reservation and to pre-pay. Make check out to JCC (Senior).

JCS to present "Talking peace" program

Erika Hauff, special to the WJN

The Jewish Cultural Society will present a Sunday Schmooze program on **"Talking peace: How to communicate with your Jewish friends about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," on Sunday, November 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. Aaron Ahuvia will lead this program, held at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.**

The program is intended for people who would like to learn better ways of talking with their Jewish friends about a just and lasting peace for Palestinians and Israelis. It will also be of interest to Jews of all political stripes who want a deeper understanding of why people hold the views they do about this conflict, as well as people who want to learn about effective communication and persuasion in a political context.

Among other academic appointments, Aaron Ahuvia teaches *social marketing* at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business. Social marketing is the application of marketing techniques to promote social causes and solve social problems. Ahuvia applies his knowledge of social marketing as national secretary for Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, where he has helped the organization grow to be America's largest pro-Israel organization dedicated to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Ahuvia is currently writing a *Message Manual* for Brit Tzedek, designed to help interested Jews be more effective advocates for peace. In addition to numerous academic publications, Ahuvia's research has been quoted in *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has also appeared on *National Public Radio* talk shows.

Last year, Ahuvia's Sunday Schmooze talk, entitled *The Psychology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, was very well received by JCS members. He is an engaging, knowledgeable, and non-confrontational speaker, who presented a very hopeful message. That message included, among other research findings, the fact that solid majorities of both Jews and Palestinians have a strong desire for peace and are willing to make the concessions necessary to achieve a lasting agreement, but that understandably, neither side trusts the other's intentions.

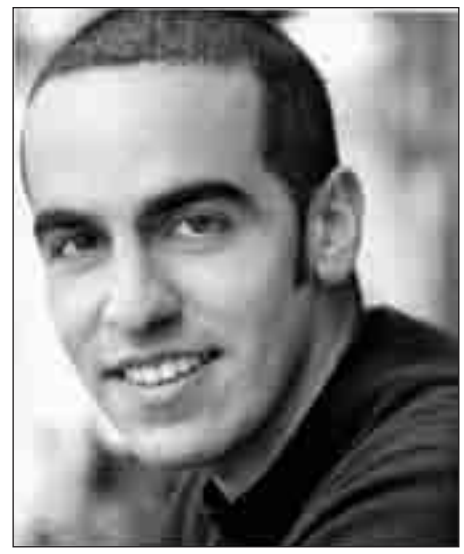
At this talk, Ahuvia will be presenting some of the practical applications of his research on the psychology of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that can be used in advocating for peace and justice when conversing with Jewish friends. To RSVP, contact Erika Hauff, JCS Administrator, at jcs@jccfed.org.

Night of Hilarity and Charity features comedian Dan Ahdoot

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

The third Night of Hilarity and Charity will be Monday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. in downtown Ann Arbor's LIVE at PJ's. The evening features a performance by comedian Dan Ahdoot. Night of Hilarity and Charity began in 2004 as a "younger, not your grandfather's Federation" way to give back to the Jewish community through the Federation's Annual Campaign. After a break last year for a special event at the Michigan Theater with the incredible Dr. Rick Hodes , this year's event co-Chairs Ron and Julie Perry and Yehuda Bechar and Monica Vaisman are pleased to bring back the popular event.

"We're very excited about the comedian we've booked for Night of Hilarity and Charity," said Julie Perry of Dan Ahdoot. Dan was a finalist on Season 2 of NBC's Last Comic Standing. He has written freelance for Comedy Central's Crank Yankers and was featured on Comedy Central's Premium Blend. He is a regular at every major



Dan Ahdoot

comedy club in New York and Los Angeles. His stage presence blends charm, likeability, and wit in a way that keeps crowds in stitches and at the same time, very comfortable. "We're sure he'll bring down the house at LIVE," says Vaisman.

Both couples have attended the event since its inception, so they've taken the opportunity to tweak it to their vision. "This is the only night of the year that our generation gets together to give back to our community. At Night of Hilarity and Charity we hope to show our peers this year's campaign isn't just about the dollar signs, but also about the number of people who take it upon themselves to get involved and make a difference," says Ron Perry. The chairs plan to provide living examples of individuals whose hands-on involvement in the local and overseas Jewish communities has made an impact. ■

Tickets to Night of Hilarity and Charity are $20 each. For more information, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/weareyad or contact Ellisha Caplan and Laura Berger at 677-0100.

Heeb Storytelling comes to LIVE at PJs

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

The editors of Heeb Magazine realized about a year into its inception that it was not just a magazine—it was a community. For this reason, its editors decided to launch a literary series during the summer of 2003. For the first unscripted, unrehearsed, and entirely experimental show in New York City, they invited seven of their favorite downtown actors, comedians, writers, artists and musicians to tell a story on stage. The only restriction was that the story had to be a Jewish one, but they left it up to the storytellers to determine what that entailed. The time limit (enforced by an amateur accordion player) was seven minutes; and the tellers could not use notes. Now, just four short years later, Heeb Storytelling is on the road, and coming to LIVE at PJs, at 102 S. First Street, Thursday, October 18.

The local event, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division and University of Michigan Hillel, will feature local writers and personalities and promises to be a "fearsomely funny night of storytelling" that captures the wide spectrum of modern day "Jewish-ness," the widening parameters of what constitutes a "Jewish story," and the fluidity of Jewish and secular cultures that exists among young Jews today.

Stories told at past shows have run the gamut: from smoking crack in Queens on a lonely Christmas eve to kissing former child star Ricky Schroeder at a cheesy family resort to growing up as Richard Pryor's Jewish daughter. However outrageous, they provide a glimpse into what it means to be a Jewish twenty-thirty something in the 21st century.

Heeb Storytelling, May 30, 2007, at Lannie's Clocktower Cabaret, Denver, CO

The Heeb storytellers—some of the most celebrated writers, comedians, actors, artists and musicians—rarely appear in Jewish contexts.

For more information on Heeb Storytelling, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/weareyad, www.heebmagazine.com or call Ellisha Caplan and Laura Berger at 677-0100.

Share Shabbat on Friday, October 12, with YAD

Ellisha Caplan, special to WJN

Over one hundred YAD members will share a Shabbat meal with complete strangers on Friday, October 12.

Once a year, Share Shabbat matches hosts with guests for shared Shabbat meals across Washtenaw County. "A shared Shabbat meal is one of the best ways to get to know other people," says Amanda Fisher, who is helping to plan this event for the third time, along with Amy Hamermesh and Julia Kessler-Hollar. "When we share a meal with new people around a familiar ritual, we already feel that we share something with them innate to being Jewish—the conversation flows easier, and the connections we make feel closer."

This year, Share Shabbat will take place in 12 homes across the community, and across communal boundaries as well. The hosts are not only people with a connection to YAD, but also people involved with Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Temple Beth Emeth, Beth Israel Congregation, the Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Center, Hebrew Day School, Chabad, and Hillel. Amy Hamermesh sees this as a key element of the event: "This community is diverse, and while we may spend our time in different parts of the Jewish community, we share an awful lot in common." Meals range from potluck to fully prepared dinners, and there are hosts that can accommodate all kinds of kashrut needs and vegetarian eaters.

To register as a guest for Share Shabbat, contact Ellisha Caplan or Laura Berger at 677-0100 by October 3.

Gerber and others take helm of JFS Board

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Serves board of directors recently elected Steven Gerber to a two-year term as president of the board. Gerber, a former Ford engineer, has held a variety of JFS board leadership roles including Co-Chair of the Friends of the Family Committee for the past five years and Co-Chair of the JFS 10th Anniversary Gala celebration in 2004.

Most recently, Steve Gerber served as treasurer and executive committee member. He has also served on the boards of Hebrew Day School, EMU and University of Michigan Hillel Foundations, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County, and the Jewish Federation, where he and his wife, Joyce, co-chaired Super Sunday for five years. His interests and affinity for community service find him ushering for university and area theatres and festivals, and volunteering as a patient visitor at Hospice of Michigan. The board also elected Leslie Kamil to serve as vice president, Bette Cotzin as secretary, and Mike Fried as treasurer.

JFS elected Andrew Rudick as a new board member. Rudick has served on the JFS Finance committee while providing key leadership to the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. "We welcome Andy to the JFS board," says President Steve Gerber. "He will be a wonderful contributor in the years ahead, bringing fresh and creative ideas just as he has done for the JFS financial team."

Current members remain on the board, including Past President Marjorie Checkoway and past Vice President Mark Berg. Checkoway steps down as president after six years of leadership while Berg has served as vice president for the last four years. Israel Woronoff becomes an emeritus, or honorary, board member. Woronoff has served as a key advisor to the agency since 1996 and was co-chair of the JFS advisory committee from 2002–2004.

"We are very grateful to these hardworking board members who have overseen a period of substantial growth in our services to the community," stated Executive Director Anya Abramzon. "Their continued vision and leadership ensures that JFS remains a critical and accessible resource to all community members in need of support."

Joyce and Steve Gerber

Hadassah cookbooks featured in AADL project

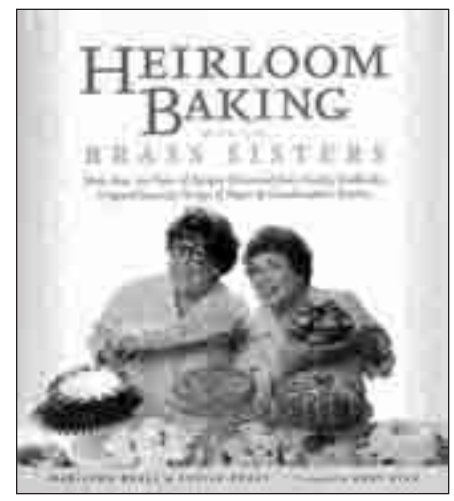
Emily Eisbruch, staff writer

Two wonderfully illustrated cookbooks from Hadassah, *Like Mama Used to Make* and *Like Mama Used to Make ... And More* will be featured in the Ann Arbor District Library's new online database of local historical cookbooks and heirloom recipes. This exciting new project by Ann Arbor District Library in cooperation with the Ann Arbor Historical Society and Hadassah is called "Ann Arbor Cooks." The project digitizes cookbooks published by Ann Arbor organizations, making them available through the library web site at aadl.org. The Library has reached back in time to gather cookbooks from the late 19th century and 20th century that capture the tastes and tempo of Ann Arbor throughout its history. The online collection will be searchable by recipe, ingredient, topic, cookbook and more.

The Ann Arbor Cooks website will include features extending beyond the array of local cookbooks and recipes. It will also highlight local growers, local food clubs and classes and many special events for everyday cooks, aspiring chefs and food lovers. Online visitors will be able to view the renowned culinary history newsletter, Repast, published since 1987 by the Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor, which contains a treasure trove of stories and research on cooking and eating around the world.

Hadassah involvement

Martha Young, chapter president Hadassah of Ann Arbor, comments, "We are so pleased that Hadassah of Ann Arbor is involved as part of the AADL's Ann Arbor Cooks project, and that two of our cookbooks are included in the online collection. It's exciting to bring into the digital era recipes passed down from previous generations and to make them available to an even wider audience." An event featuring Jewish cooking is planned for January 27, 2008 at 2 p.m. at the Mallett's Creek branch. During the program, Hadassah members will demonstrate some of the recipes from their two cookbooks included in the Ann Arbor Cooks database.



Kick off event

Meanwhile this month, a kick-off event for Ann Arbor Cooks online cookbook database will be held on Thursday, October 25 from 7–8:30 pm in the Downtown Library Multipurpose Room. Featured speakers at this event will be Marilynn and Sheila Brass. These Jewish sisters are authors of *Heirloom Cooking with the Brass Sisters,* which has just been nominated for a James Beard Foundation Book Award. Copies of the book will be available for sale at the event, courtesy of Nicola's Books, and the evening will include a book signing. In addition, an assortment of refreshments will be served, culled from old-time Ann Arbor recipes from the database cookbooks. The evening's refreshments will be prepared especially for this event by the Washtenaw County Historical Society.

Featured speakers

The Brass sisters, who reside in Massachusetts, are experts on heirloom cookery and have compiled a research library of more than 6,500 cookbooks, including dozens of manuscript cookbooks, as well as 1,500 books and periodicals on antiques and culinary history. Their collection of more than 2,000 antique food molds, kitchenware, culinary prints and menus is considered one of the finest in the United States.

Sheila and Marilynn are both members of The Culinary Historians of Boston. Frequently they act as consultants to universities, publications television stations and antique dealers. Together, Marilynn and Sheila have a total of 110 years of baking experience. *Heirloom Baking With The Brass Sisters* is their first cookbook. Marilynn and Sheila Brass serve as North American Consultants for Miller's Publications, and many of their own culinary antiques and cookbooks have appeared in Miller's Antiques Price Guides. They also produced and wrote the introduction and Miller's first segment on antiquarian cookbooks.

Marilynn Brass graduated from Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Arts in English-Journalism cum laude and with Departmental Honors in English. She received a Master of Arts in English while on fellowship at Northeastern University. Marilynn has worked in public relations, community affairs and employee communications. She has also worked at WGBH, the public television station in Boston, in the production unit of *This Old House, The New Yankee Workshop, The Victory Garden*. Marilynn baked her first cake at the age of 12.

Sheila Brass, a former fashion designer, has worked in National Programming at WGBH for more than 20 years. She is an honors graduate of the Massachusetts College of Art with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fashion Illustration and Design. Sheila baked her first cake at the age of 11.

According the Tim Grimes, community relations manager for the AADL, "We are thrilled to have Marilyn and Sheila Brass, nationally-known heirloom baking experts to assist in unveiling the library's new online cookbook database Ann Arbor Cooks." ■

The Downtown Library is located at 343 South Fifth Avenue in Ann Arbor. For more information, call the Library at 327-4560.

Learn CPR at Hadassah course

Moira Tannenbaum, special to the WJN

Have you always wanted to learn CPR? Are you curious about those glass cases labeled "defibrillator" that you see in public buildings? Did you used to know CPR, but you know it's changed, and you want a refresher?

The entire community is invited to Hadassah's CPR course, which will take place on Sunday morning, November 4, 2007, at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. The cost is only $25, but the course is free to Hadassah members. Participants can join Hadassah before the program, and receive the course free, as well.

The CPR course will cover adult, child, and infant CPR, as well as AED (automated external defibrillator). The instructors are employees of Huron Valley Ambulance and are certified by the American Heart Association. Upon completing the course, participants will receive a certificate from the American Heart Association.

Participants must be at the JCC by 9 a.m. to take the course and receive the certificate. Due to time requirements of the program, latecomers cannot be admitted. An optional $5 continental breakfast will be available at the JCC, starting at 9 a.m.

To reserve a spot, send a check for $25 (made out the "Hadassah") to Michele Israel, 4368 Hillside Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105. Michele must receive your check by October 15. If you are a Hadassah member, your uncashed $25 check will be returned when you check in the morning of November 4. Hadassah cannot return the checks for people who register but do not attend, because the instructors must be paid in advance, and the number of instructors hired depends on the number of students registered.

For questions about the CPR program, call Martha Young at 769-7523, or email Moira Tannenbaum at moiratan@hotmail.com. Annual memberships in Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, are $36. For information on joining Hadassah, visit www.hadassah.org, or phone (800) 664-5646.

Sherri Peller to be honored by Women's League

Rachel Schreiber, special to the WJN

Sherri Peller will be honored with the Women's League chapter's Woman of Achievement Award at the Michigan Region Women's League for Conservative Judaism Torah Fund Dinner. The event will be hosted by B'nai Moshe Sisterhood in West Bloomfield on Wednesday, October 10 at 6 p.m.

Sherri and Charles Peller

Peller is a graduate of NYU and has numerous graduate accreditations. She has been involved in education for decades. Her affiliation with Torah Fund as a benefactor spans the 70's, 80's and 90's. She is a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and has resided in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Canton, Ohio most of her life.

Peller's volunteer activities range from civic to religious involvement. Currently, she serves as recording secretary for Beth Israel Congregation. She is also responsible for sending out yarzheit notices and mailings to synagogue members. Peller has served as treasurer of the KIPOT Branch of Women's League and held the office of president for the Shaaray Torah sisterhood in Canton, Ohio. During the past decade, her Dvar Torah's given at the Women's League meetings at Beth Israel have been inspirational and enlightening. Her wisdom and goodness of spirit are appreciated by all who know her.

Michigan legislators explore economic development opportunities between Michigan and Israel

Susan Herman, special to the WJN

In search of economic development opportunities for the State of Michigan, eight State legislators, representatives from MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) and the Michigan Israel Business Bridge and several others, traveled on a Legislators Mission to Israel from August 13-18. Although its population is less than that of Michigan, Israel ranks first in the world in the number of scientists and engineers per capita, has over 2,500 high tech companies and 80 venture capital funds. Due to its limited domestic market, it is eager to develop economic partnerships with other countries. Michigan legislators, on the other hand, are eager to attract new businesses to Michigan and create new markets for the State's products.

Given these potentially complementary objectives, the trip's participants and Israeli representatives explored economic development opportunities, and research collaborations between Michigan and Israel. The mission included meetings with key Israeli businesses that relate to Michigan economic cluster foci, including homeland security, alternative fuel development and biotechnology. Discussions explored the potential for Israeli businesses to locate to Michigan, Israeli markets for Michigan products and vice versa, and research and development collaboration between Israeli and Michigan universities and institutes.

Participants were afforded the opportunity to meet with representatives from many business and research sectors, including biotechnology incubators in Nazareth and Haifa, Elbit Industries, Phoenicia Glass, Hadassah Hospital, the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce, the American Embassy, Israel Export and International Cooperation Institute and Johnson and Johnson.

In addition, mission participants received a firsthand understanding of Israel's political, security and social issues/concerns through briefings by military and political analysts and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visits to social service programs and home hospitality. Rounding out the trip were visits to YAD Vashem Holocaust Memorial and to prominent historical sites.

Participants were very excited about the potential business opportunities that the mission created for Michigan. Follow up activities are already underway, including visits from Israeli businesses to explore opportunities of working in Michigan, exploration of markets for Michigan products in Israel, and future trade missions.

The mission was arranged by the United Jewish Foundation. ■

Susan Herman is the director of the Michigan Jewish Conference. She can be reached at (517) 449-1562.

(Back Row) Shloma (guide), Representative Gabe Leland - Dem. - Detroit, Sharon Newman, Chuck Newman, Senator Mark Schauer - Dem. - Battle Creek (Western MI) - Senate Minority Leader, Christine Schauer (Mark's wife), Representative Kevin Elsenheimer - Rep. - Kewadin (Northern MI) - Assistant Minority Leader, Senator Ron Jelinek - Rep. - Three Oaks (Western MI) - Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, Linda Blumberg - Planning Director for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Representative George Cushinberry, Jr. - Dem. - Detroit - Chair of the House Appropriations Committee
(Front Row) Howard Edelson - Senior Vice-President of International Business Development and Government Affairs for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Representative Steve Tobocman - Dem. - Detroit - Majority Floor Leader, Beth Gothelf - on the Government Relations Oversight Committee of the Detroit Federation, Representative Marty Knollenberg - Rep. - Troy, Susan Herman - Director of the Michigan Jewish Conference, Representative Pam Byrnes - Dem. - Chelsea - Associate Speaker Pro Tempore, Edna Cushinberry (George's mother), Greg Aronin - on the Government Relations Oversight Committee of the Detroit Federation, Bassan - security

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A two thousand year journey: Israel to Ethiopia and back

Second installment of three-part series

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

This July, I had the opportunity to participate in the United Jewish Communities (UJC) Campaign Chairs and Directors (CCD) Mission in which 180 Jewish leaders traveled back and forth through time to learn first hand about the incredible journey and challenges of Israel's Ethiopian community. I was accompanied on the mission by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's 2008 Campaign Chair (and my husband), Gary Freed.

We spent our first day in Ethiopia learning about the final stages of the aliyah process and meeting Falas Mura who would be arriving home in Israel within the next 48 hours. Our itinerary for the second day had us traveling back in time to the former center of Ethiopian Jewish life—the mountainous Gondar region in the northwest corner of Ethiopia. Our hour long flight was a breeze compared to the difficult two-day journey those approved for aliyah endure to travel to their capital.

Gondar countryside

Impressions of the Gondar Region

My first impression was how incredibly beautiful and green the scenery was. Although Ethiopia is situated in equatorial Africa, its elevation offers a temperate climate of cool nights, moderately warm days and, because it was "winter," enough rain for us to keep our rain gear handy.

Ethiopia is a country of 80 million people. While about 10 million live in urban areas, the rest of the population lives in approximately 140,000 rural villages most of which are at least ten kilometers from the nearest paved road. In our convoy of 19 jeeps, we traveled to one of those remote villages, Ambover, at one time a center of Jewish life in Gondar. As we headed off the main road and traveled through the countryside, we began our education into the realities of life in rural Ethiopia.

Here is what we witnessed outside our window as we bounced and jolted through mud and ruts: small barefoot children tending flocks of goats or sheep; women making the long trek to the nearest market town with bundles on their head; small villages of mud and thatch huts—some "villages" as small as 2-3 dwellings; boys plowing rocky soil with skinny oxen and wooden plows; people of all ages waving and calling "yu yu yu" at the strange sight of a string of motor vehicles filled with white people coming through their "neighborhood" for the second day in a row. There was not a single tractor, store or telephone wire.

An Ethiopian Israeli revisits his past

Our ride was enhanced by the presence of Asher Seyum, the 34-year-old director of an absorption center in Ashdod, Israel. Asher was, until the age of 12, one of the barefoot shepherds we were waving to on the way to Ambover. As we journeyed through his past, Asher seemed in awe of the difference between his childhood and the life he and his family are living in Israel today. Before 1984, Asher spent his days walking shoeless through the hills with his sheep and his thoughts to keep him company. His father was teaching him to plow with an ox, and he would walk from his village the 5 kilometers to Ambover to visit his mother's family, attend the regional elementary school and pray in the tiny, one-room synagogue that served as the spiritual center for the area. As far as he could tell, his family had a good life. He did not feel the grinding poverty of subsistence farming because he was fortunate not to be living in a time of severe drought, and he did not know—nor could he imagine—a different way of life.

One important aspect of Ethiopian Jewish spiritual life was the constant yearning and praying to go to Jerusalem. Not only was it a part of regular prayers, but there was a special observance, just after Passover, during which all the Jews in the area would gather at a specific hill near Ambover and pray all day to return to Jerusalem. Therefore, it seemed perfectly natural to Asher when his parents told him it was time to begin the journey to Jerusalem. In 1984, Asher's family was among the 12,000 Ethiopian Jews who made the 400-mile, arduous passage to Sudan via the inhospitable desert. They faced robbers, arrest by the Ethiopian authorities, starvation and disease along the way. Many languished in Sudanese refugee camps along with other Africans fleeing their drought and war-ravaged villages. Sadly 4000 Ethiopian Jews, including Asher's baby sister, died along the way. Finally, in late 1984 and early 1985 Israel was able to accomplish an amazing feat—they brought 7000 Ethiopian Jews, including Asher, home to Israel.

Women walk many kilometers to the closest market town

Asher Seyum, Absorption Center director, shows he still knows how to plow

While in Ambover, we visited the one-room cinder block synagogue – cared for by a Christian caretaker who is paid by contributions from Ethiopian Israelis; the bare, ill-equipped cinder block school—founded in 1961 by the Jewish Agency and still an educational center for more than 1000 students; and a Christian family living in a mud dwelling once inhabited by Jews. This home visit opened our eyes to the reality of life in the village and what Asher's family left behind. The head of the family with whom we met was a mother of seven children whose husband died years ago. Her oldest son still at home has an injured leg and is not able to help much. She makes a living, such that it is, by brewing and selling a bitter corn beer drunk by the locals. She had chickens but no other livestock to sustain her family. This family's hut, a tiny 2-room structure made of mud and thatch, had belonged to a Jewish family and was abandoned when they left for Israel. It was clear that if there was a drought or some other event that impacted their ability to grow the corn used for the beer they brew, they had no other means of sustenance or survival.

Home visit in mud dwelling formerly owned by Jews

Services for Falas Mura in Gondar

After our visit in Ambover, we drove to Gondar, the regional "city" to visit the Solomon Clinic run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). This clinic has been operating since 1999 and is intended to serve Falas Mura (Ethiopian Jews who had converted to Christianity) who left their rural villages and came to Gondar to open a file for immigration to Israel. There, people receive vaccines, health education, and family planning information, and the clinic houses a feeding program for 300 malnourished children, pregnant woman and lactating mothers. From the Solomon Clinic, we arrived at the offices of the Jewish Agency where families are interviewed and processed for immigration. According to the State of Israel, Falas Mura, recognized by the Chief Rabbinate as "being among the seed of Israel," must meet three specific conditions in order to make aliyah.

1. They must be invited by family members already living in Israel,
2. They must be able to prove they are descended from a Jewish mother within the last seven generations prior to their conversion to Christianity (most often this is accomplished by the testimony of community elders in Israel), and
3. They must be listed in the Efrati population study, a census conducted in 1999 to determine how many people remained who may be eligible to immigrate to Israel.

After extensive interviews and fact-check-

ing by Israeli immigration authorities, if a family is approved, they begin the final stages of the aliyah process—the beginning of the end of what, for many, has been 10 years of waiting and wondering if they would ever be allowed to join their families in Israel.

Our final stop in Gondar was a compound run by the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry (NACOEJ). For the past 30 years, NACOEJ has been the principal voice agitating and advocating for the Falas Mura population. At this large complex, Falas Mura who have learned that they have not been approved for aliyah or who hope to immigrate in spite of not meeting all the conditions receive services similar to the Solomon Clinic where only those who are in the process of applying for aliyah are served. There is an enormous nutrition program and a Jewish education center. A major focus of this particular project is to help the Falas Mura prepare for formal conversion to Judaism and for life in a modern Jewish state. The Falas Mura at this center continue to hope that even those who have not been approved will, someday, be admitted to Israel. There we saw some sights we'd not yet seen in Ethiopia – a large synagogue with a mechitza (separation for men and women), Jewish education classes (they were learning about Tisha B'Av), and a fully operational mikva.

Families on their way home to Israel

10 commandments in Amharic in NACOEJ synagogue

Return to Addis Ababa

We returned to Addis Ababa full of impressions of all we had seen and experienced and returned to the Israeli embassy where we had the honor of re-connecting with families who were to make aliyah that very night. One hundred and eighty Americans stood on the dark road across from the embassy and walked toward the approximately 25 Ethiopian families who were dressed in the new clothes and carrying the new backpacks we'd distributed to them only a day before. We sang Heveinu Shalom Aleichem, Oseh Shalom, Am Yisrael Chai and Hinei Ma Tov, as we approached these soon-to-be new Israelis. It is difficult to describe the emotions of such an experience – pride in the Jewish people and Israel for making this possible; hope for the new immigrants who would be beginning a new, strange and, for some very difficult, life in Israel; gratitude for being able to witness this very concrete and moving example of the concept of kol Yisrael aravim ze l'zeh (All Jews are responsible one for the other).

Welcoming new immigrants in Israel

We flew on separate planes to Israel that evening, and we were at the Arrivals Hall at Ben Gurion Airport to greet the new immigrants. Imagine what might be going through their minds—the trauma of flying in a metal tube, not knowing how to use the seatbelts and facilities on the plane. Arriving in a new country is overwhelming in any case. Consider that this group of immigrants had been followed by our large group of white people with cameras constantly flashing during the completion of their final preparations for aliyah, at the Israeli embassy for their farewell, at the Addis Ababa airport for departure and again in Israel upon their arrival. I imagined they thought their entire life in Israel might include being stalked by this multitude of pale-faced paparazzi and wondered what they must be thinking about us. Thankfully, while they seemed a bit dazed, they seemed relieved and happy about arriving in Israel and waved Israeli flags as we sang songs of welcome to celebrate their arrival. The pride and joy from the previous evening at the embassy returned, and I began to wonder about what challenges they would face in their new lives. ■

Next month: Successes and challenges for the Ethiopian community in Israel.

2007

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"The Land and The Spirit" explores spiritual connection of Jewish People to Holy Land

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

Many have explored the politics and geography of Israel, but few have explored the soul of the land. This November, the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute will unveil an intriguing new course at over 250 affiliates across the globe. The course, called "The Land and The Spirit," will be offered locally under the auspices of Ann Arbor Chabad House. Classes will be held at the Jewish Community of Washtenaw Country, beginning November 6, and running for six Tuesdays, from 7:30-9 p.m.

Unlike other courses that are concerned primarily with the modern State of Israel or its ancient history, The Land and The Spirit focuses on the mystery of the deep bond so many people feel for the land of Israel. "Many people love their homes and their countries, but once they relocate, that love begins to fade," explains Rabbi Aharon Goldstein. "Yet no matter where they have lived, Jews have continued to dream about the land of Israel," continues Rabbi Aharon Goldstein. "The Land and The Spirit looks to answer why that dream has persisted across borders and generations."

The Land and The Spirit provides students with an explanation for the central role the Holy Land plays in the Jews' mission throughout history. The course explains what it means for a land to be holy, and the implications this has for the people living within that land. The Land and The Spirit also explores the relationship that Jews in the Diaspora maintain with Israel despite their place of residence.

"Whatever their political bent, people all across the globe have an opinion about Israel, whether positive or negative," says local JLI coordinator Dr. Paul Shapiro. "Whether people feel hope or despair, pride or concern, people care about Israel. By probing the spiritual connection Jews have with the Holy Land, we hope our students will come away with appreciation for why Israel matters so much to them."

The Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) is the adult education arm of Chabad-Lubavitch. JLI's classes and programs, now offered in over 300 locations in over 250 cities nationwide, as well as international locations (including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Holland, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela), have been attended by nearly 75,000 people since JLI's creation in 1998. Many others participate virtually through online message boards and other internet-based channels.

Every course offered by the JLI is synchronized so that lessons are offered concurrently in all locations. This unique feature sets JLI apart from other similar programs and has helped create a true global learning community. Visit www.myJLI.com for up-to-the-minute information about The Land and The Spirit.

The course costs $75, which includes a beautiful student textbook. "We are so sure that people will enjoy it" says Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, "that we invite anyone interested to attend the first lesson free, with no obligation." For more information, contact Chabbad House at 995-3276. ■

"The Land and the Spirit"

Lesson One: The Promised Land
Lesson Two: Living on The Land
Lesson Three: The Holy Land
Lesson Four: Whose Land Is It Anyway?
Lesson Five: A Land Like Other Lands?
Lesson Six: Israel and The Diaspora

Sukkot—the season of our rejoicing

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The mitzvah (commandment) of lulav and etrog requires us to take branches or fruit from four different species of trees (these two and the myrtle and the willow) and combine them in the performance of this mitzvah. Our Sages explain that each of the species used for this mitzvahh refers to a different type of person, from the most spiritually developed to the least refined.

Therein is an obvious lesson. The mitzvahh cannot be fulfilled with only the etrog, the most elevated of the species. The willow—which in the analogy to people refers to those on the lowest levels—is also necessary. So, too, no person can attain fulfillment by remaining isolated, out of touch with others. Even the realization of his individual potential cannot be complete without him reaching out to others and joining together with them.

Our Sages explain that the lulav and the etrog are a victory symbol, indicating our vindication in the judgment of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. When we stand bound together in unity, as the lulav and etrog teach, we can be assured of positive blessings in the year to come.

In our prayers, we describe Sukkot as "The Season of Our Rejoicing." This theme will reach its ultimate fulfillment in the era of Moshiach, when, as the Prophet relates, our people will return to the Land of Israel "crowned with eternal joy." And as it says in Psalms: "Then [- as opposed to now -] our mouths will be filled with laughter."

In previous generations, Jews did not need explanations why happiness was associated specifically with Moshiach's time. It was quite obvious. By and large, they did not live in happy times. But they knew that this sadness was not forever. At one point, the trials and tribulations of the exile would end and they would enjoy happiness and joy.

Today, however, when a person can enjoy all the comforts that a free and affluent society has to offer, we are able to ask: What is so special about the happiness that Moshiach will provide?

Although our Sages explain that we will have peace, prosperity, and well-being in the era of the Redemption, these are not the essence of that time. They are merely the backdrop and the setting that will allow the message of the Redemption to be communicated more effectively.

In the present age, we're happy because things - good food, good people, good times—make us happy. In the era of Mashiach, we won't need external factors to make us feel happy. We will feel happy because we're alive—because we have a soul and because we're living in God's world. This awareness will be as real to us as material reality is today.

We have the potential to appreciate a foretaste of this happiness in the present era. It is true that at present our knowledge of spirituality is merely intellectual, and only in the future era will we have firsthand experience of the spiritual core in our own being and in the world at large. Nevertheless, even today, knowing that this is the truth and focusing on it intensely can grant us a glimmer of this awareness and a sampling of the happiness that will result from it.

Tasting this happiness and sharing it with others will precipitate the time when this mindset will spread throughout all existence and "our mouths will be filled with laughter." ■

Looking back and moving forward

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

As we begin the New Year, I look forward to continuing my series on the Haftarah readings, the readings from the Prophets read on Shabbat and Holiday mornings. These readings, connected either to the content of the reading from the Torah or to the significance of the day on the calendar, "complete" the reading from the Torah and, in fact, the word Haftarah comes from a root meaning "to complete."

One of my favorite Haftarah readings of the year is read on the morning of Simchat Torah, the last holiday during the fall season. Immediately after we have concluded the reading of the Torah with the end of the book of Deuteronomy and begun again with the creation story from Genesis, we read a Haftarah reading from the first chapter of the book of Joshua.

While we must seek wisdom from that which came before and seek to better understand that which we have already read, we must move forward as well.

The Haftarah connects thematically with Deuteronomy in that it continues the story we conclude in the Torah. The Torah concludes with the death of Moses on the edge of the Promised Land. The book of Joshua, which follows Deuteronomy in the Bible, continues the story with the emergence of Joshua, Moses' successor as leader of the people, and the movement of the people from the desert into Canaan.

But, the connection with Genesis is a bit more subtle and, I believe, more critical to note.

When we conclude the book of Deuteronomy and then, with only a few moments interruption, go back to the beginning of Genesis and begin to read the Torah again, we are making a very important statement about the importance of tradition and the importance of re-reading the stories that have always been important to us.

But, when we follow the reading of Genesis with the beginning of Joshua, we are reminding ourselves that we must move forward as well. Thus, we move in two directions at the same time: returning to where we started and moving forward. Going back to the beginning is not enough. While we must seek wisdom from that which came before and seek to better understand that which we have already read, we must move forward as well. By both going back to the beginning of the Torah and moving ahead to the next section of the Bible, we are demonstrating the importance of looking back and looking ahead.

In our lives, we need both of these movements. We need to strengthen and deepen our connection with our roots in history and tradition. But, at the same time, we need to be moving forward to face new challenges with new ideas and new directions.

May this new year be a year in which we celebrate the joy of going back to where we have come from and the joy of moving forward to new places as well. ■

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Beth Israel programs in October

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Simchat Torah and the International Shul of Pancakes

On October 5, after the Simchat Torah Shacharit and Hallel services which start at 8:30 a.m., there will be a free Pancake Breakfast in the Social Hall from 9–10 a.m.for congregants and visitors, followed by the Hakafot, the Torah processionals,and the rest of the service. Tots and their parents are invited to the Pancake Breakfast with the rest of the congregation, followed by a special Tot Simchat Torah program just for them.

On the previous evening, Saturday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m. the congregation will mark the beginning of the Simchat Torah holiday with family friendly Torah processionals and special snacks.

Camp and Israel Programs Fair

On October 14 from 9:30 a.m.–noon, representatives from local and other popular Jewish camps – Tavor, Young Judaea, Tamarack Camps, will come to answer questions and share information about their programs. There will also be representatives from teen travel trips to Israel and other locales. Scholarships to Israel are available from Beth Israel, the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County, and MASA. This event is open to the general community.

Recognizing Moments of Divine Presence in Daily Life

On October 11, at 8 p.m. in the Social Hall, trained spiritual director Evelyn Neuhaus will lead special group sharing moments of divine connection in their lives. They will explore the personal meanings of the Hasidic teaching that divinity is present in every moment, if one can but learn to recognize it. After a 35 year career in health care administration, retirement and a growing interest in spirituality and the opening of the heart, Evelyn has completed a two-year training program in Jewish Spiritual Direction called Morei Derekh program, and holds a certificate in Spiritual Direction.

Shabbat Child Care and Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbat for 3–5 year olds and their parents will meet on Saturday mornings October 13, and October 27 11 a.m.–noon. Tot Shabbat on October 13 is led by Peretz Hirshbein, assistant director of the JCC's Early Childhood Center, and on October 27 by Jenn Levine. Enjoy stories, puppets, songs, and a special kiddush just for 3–5 year olds and their parents. In general, Tot Shabbat is scheduled for every second and fourth Shabbat of the month. There is no charge. Childcare for pre-schoolers aged 2–5 years old is offered every Saturday from 10 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

New TBE Shabbat schedule begins in October

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Every Friday beginning October 5, Temple Beth Emeth will offer three Erev Shabbat services, each offering different music and prayers. Tot Shabbat is at 5:30 pm; Shira (Shabbat in Song) at 6:30 pm, and a Shabbat Service using the new Reform Prayerbook, Mishkan Tefilah, at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Levy & Cantor Rose will lead each service.

In addition to services, TBE will also offer two choices for Shabbat dinner each week: Tot Dinner at 6 p.m., and Shabbat Dinner catered by Simply Scrumptious from 6–7:15 p.m. The Shabbat Dinner menu will include a chicken selection or vegetarian option, side dish, salad bar, challah and beverage for the cost of $9 per person. The Tot Shabbat dinner of fish sticks, mac & cheese, salad bar and applesauce will cost $4 per person.

Tot Shabbat includes engaging Shabbat music and stories, with weekly surprises for all tots. Shira (singing) was introduced this past year as an uplifting song session appropriate for all ages, with guitar accompaniment.

The new Reform siddur, Mishkan Tefilah, offers many beautiful translations of prayers, both traditional and interpretative, as well as extended sections of songs for congregational singing. For more information on the new Erev Shabbat schedule or to purchase dinner tickets, call the TBE office at 665-4744 or email tbe@templebethemeth.org.

Rabbi Gorin, "Chief Rabbi of Nigeria," to speak

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Over the extended weekend of November 1–3, Rabbi Howard Gorin who has worked with several African Jewish communities, including the Ugandan Abayudaya tribe, and with the Nigerian Ibo tribe who consider him their Chief Rabbi, will be speaking about his work with them. Beth Israel kicks off his visit with a Friday Night Nigerian-inspired Shabbat Dinner on November 2 at 7 p.m. The dinner will be proceded by a Tot Shabbat service at 5:30 p.m. and a regular Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 p.m. Rabbi Gorin will make his presentation at 8 p.m. Though there is a charge for dinner, there is no charge to hear his lecture, which will be held in Beth Israel's Main Sanctuary.

Rabbi Howard Gorin

During Shabbat morning services on Saturday, November 3, Rabbi Gorin will speak about the Halachic issues in his work, and the concept of "Klal Yisrael"—the connections between all Jews—as part of the D'var Torah portion of the service.

Rabbi Howard Gorin, a native of Chicago, has served as spiritual leader of Congregation Tikvat Israel since 1980. He received his B.A. in psychology from the University of Illinois, Chicago in 1971; a bachelor of Hebrew literature degree from Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago in 1972; and a master of Hebrew literature degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in 1974. Rabbi Gorin received his rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1976. In a rabbinic capacity, Rabbi Gorin has visited Jewish communities in Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Cuba, Uganda, and Nigeria. Rabbi Gorin is married to Pamela Meyers Gorin and has two children, Emma and Yonatan.

In addition to the events at BIC, Rabbi Gorin will speak at the U-M Hillel on Thursday, November 1 at 6 p.m. There is no charge for any of his lectures.

Jewish Cultural Society helps replace Jewish Community Center ceiling tiles

More than a dozen volunteers from the Jewish Cultural Society and Jewish Community Center Early Childcare Center came together to replace the ceiling tiles in the Newman, Gelman, and Levine lounges on Sunday, September 2 and Monday, September 3. Parents and kids donated their time and efforts across the Labor Day weekend to improve the appearance of these areas. The work was sometimes grueling, but a good time was had by the volunteers.

Activities at Temple Beth Emeth

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Temple Beth Emeth Service Schedule (Every week)

Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:30 p.m. Traditional Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm. Tot Shabbat Dinner served from 6 to 7:15 p.m., Cost: $4/person. Menu: fish sticks, mac & cheese, salad bar and applesauce. Shabbat Dinner served from 6 to 7:15 p.m., catered by Simply Scrumptious, Chef Lori Shepard, TBE Member. Cost: $9/person. Menu: Weekly chicken selection and vegetarian option, side dish, salad bar, challah & beverage. All are welcome. For details, call 665-4744.

Simchat Torah celebration

Wednesday, October 3, 6 p.m. Bring Your Own Dinner; 7 p.m. Israeli Dancing & Service; 8 p.m. Meditation in the chapel; 8:30 p.m. Adult Study Session with Rabbi Levy: ''A Complete Understanding of the Torah. Naw, Just Kidding." All are welcome. Thursday, October 4, Yiskor service and lunch, 11 a.m.

Interfaith workshops

TBE's interfaith couples discussion group meets monthly. Non-members and relatives of an intermarried couple (Jewish/not Jewish) are welcome.

Workshops on Interfaith Issues

Interfaith couples and their relatives are encouragedtoattendtheseupcomingsessions.Both workshops feature a panel and break-out discussion groups, and meet in the lower level in rooms 9/10. If you are celebrating Judaism in the home or would like to and want to know more, these sessions are for you. Childcare is available with advanced notice.

Eggs, Plagues, Trees & Dreidels: Navigating the Holidays in the Interfaith Family

Sunday, October 7, 3-5 p.m.

Bris, Baptism, Bat Mitzvah: Navigating Lifecycle Events in the Interfaith Family

Sunday, December 2, 3-5 p.m.

Sponsored by TBE's Interfaith Couples Group. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Families with young children

For families with kids aged 0-5 years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non members are welcome at all events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org, 665-4744 or Jill Pritts, jillpritts@yahoo.com.

Tots at Domino Farms Petting Zoo

Sunday, October 7, 10:30 a.m. $4/person, children under two are free. Make checks out to TBE and RSVP ASAP to 665-4744. Any questions, contact Julie Berson Grand, jbgrand@umich.edu.

Tot Shabbat every week starting October 5

Beginning October 5, TBE will host Tot Shabbat every week at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Tot Dinner at 6 p.m. and Shira (Shabbat in Song) at 6:30 p.m.. There is a Tot Dinner for $4/person and also a dinner for adults at $9/person, catered by Simply Scrumptious. To RSVP for the dinner, call 665-4744.

Twenties & Thirties

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit our website at http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt for upcoming events, email us at tnt@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Shabbat dinner out (Location TBA)

Friday, October 5, 7 p.m.

RSVP to Dara at dara@detailsart.com by October 1.

Wiards apple picking and haunted hayride

Saturday, October 20, Time TBA

$14/person, RSVP to Ken at mayerk@umich.edu.

Movie Tuesday: *A & E Biography: Yitzhak Rabin*

October 16, 1-3 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth.

For people with flexible schedules. Monthly Film & Discussion series held on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m.. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare is available with advanced notice. Movie Tuesdays usually occur on the third Tuesday of the month. Almost 12 years since his assassination, a look at the man whose life closely paralleled the history of the Jewish state.

Women's Rosh Chodesh begins Sunday, October 14, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the new moon/month in a meaningful gathering of Jewish women. Co-sponsored by Caring Community and the TBE Sisterhood. A complete schedule is found at www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/rosh_chodesh. Any questions, contact Abbie Egherman at 734/975-0828 or aje_2001@yahoo.com. To subscribe to the Rosh Chodesh email list, contact Devon at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org. Childcare may be available with advanced notice.

Hope: Support for people who have lost a partner

New Support Group for Widows & Widowers co-sponsored by TBE and Jewish Family Services. The group will meet for five sessions on Monday afternoons beginning October 1 and will be facilitated by Carole Lapidos, M.S.W. Cost: $50, scholarships are available. Open to the commmunity. Please contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744 to register.

Adult Classes

R'fua Sh'leima: Healing and the Jewish Imagination with Cantor Annie Rose

Mondays, October 8, 15, & 22, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth

This three-session class will examine Jewish perspectives on healing, exploring personal experiences and developing a collection of prayers and readings to use in our daily lives. The book will be available for purchase at TBE: Healing and the Jewish Imagination: Spiritual And Practical Perspectives On Judaism And Health (Hardcover), edited by Rabbi William Cutter. Contact Devon at 665-4744 or dfitzig@templebethemeth.org to sign up and purchase a book.

Lunch & Learn

Pirke Avot with Rabbi Robert Levy on Fridays in the Temple Beth Emeth adult lounge from noon–1 p.m., beginning on October 12.

In the middle of the mishnah's discussion of civil law is a small collection of rabbinic philosophy. Pirke Avot (or "Sayings of the Fathers") is a compilation of pithy rabbinic wisdom and can serve as a window into the rabbinic mind. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. Call 665-4744 for more information.

Friday afternoon Meditation and Learning

1-2 p.m. in the Temple Beth Emeth Begins on Friday, October 12. Focuses on the weekly parasha (Torah portion) with a teaching from Rabbi Levy followed by meditation led by Judy Freedman. All levels are welcome. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. Call 665-4744 for more information.

Basic Judaism

Instructors: Devon Fitzig and Rabbi Robert Levy

Sundays, October 14, 21 & 28; November 4, 11 & 18; December 9; January 6, 13, 20 & 27; February 10.

Cost: $25 for non-members, free for members. This course will cover Jewish theology; holidays, customs and rituals; life cycle events; pre-modern history; history of the state of Israel and the Holocaust. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. Register by calling 665-4744 or emailing dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Adult Hebrew

Biblical Hebrew

Instructor: Pauli Weizman

Cost for 12 week fall semester: $160 for TBE/BIC members, $200 for non-members

Beginning Biblical Hebrew: Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. (Begins October 10),

No prior Hebrew necessary; Hebrew in a day is a nice introduction, but is not necessary. Focus on alphabet, grammar, sound, etc.

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: new date & time—Wednesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. (Begins October 10) one–year experience of Hebrew reading suggested. Focus on Hebrew grammar and vocabulary.

Advanced Biblical Hebrew: new date & time —Mondays 5 to 6 p.m. (Begins October 8), two years experience suggested. Focus on complete grammar and reading Hebrew prayers and biblical passages.

Conversational Hebrew

Instructor: Malli Holoshitz

Cost for 12 week fall semester: $160 for TBE/BIC members, $200 for non-members

Read, speak, and understand the language of Israel—Modern Hebrew.

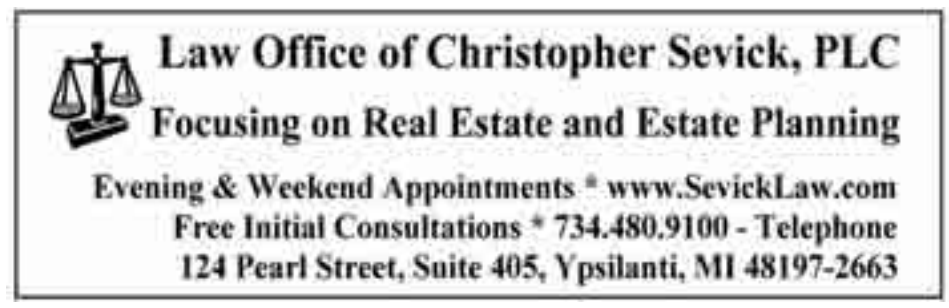
Beginning Conversational Hebrew: Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. (begins October 11) No prior Hebrew necessary; Hebrew in a Day is a nice introduction, but is not necessary. Focus on basic grammar, sentence construction and vocabulary.

Intermediate Conversational Hebrew: Thursdays, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (begins October 11) One year experience including vocabulary and grammar suggested. Focus on more depth, grammatical concepts using current musical sources.

Advanced Conversational Hebrew: Thursdays, 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. (begins October 11) At least two years experience including vocabulary and grammar suggested.

Semester classes will be taught at Temple Beth Emeth.

Classes will run for 12 sessions. A minimum number of pre-registered students are required in order to run each class. Winter and spring semesters are a continuation of the fall.



New national study addresses questions about Jewish day school education

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

In recent years, Jewish day school enrollment has increased nationwide. Yet, despite this growth, there are some parents who are inhibited from selecting this kind of school for their children. These parents often have two common concerns. They worry that the lack of diversity in a Jewish day school could leave their children unable to function in a pluralistic society. They are also concerned about the quality of the secular education because, in a Jewish day school, classroom instruction time is split between secular studies and Hebrew language and Judaics (Jewish history, culture and customs, study of classical texts).

Concrete evidence from local communities has for years addressed these concerns. For example, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor consistently scores 97 percent and above in standardized secular tests (math and language arts). Its graduates go on to attend top universities, the list of which includes Harvard, Columbia, and the University of Michigan. Day school graduates go on to succeed in a variety of careers.

For the first time, a new national study has been released to address concerns and to collect evidence that can answer questions about day schools in general. Released in May 2007 by PEJE (Partners for Excellence in Jewish Education), the study was designed to determine the near-term effects of Jewish day schools on the academic, social, and Jewish trajectories of day school graduates currently in college. The study, conducted by the Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, employed a primary sampling strategy that included use of email lists obtained from 12 campus Hillel organizations, and a supplementary sampling strategy that used lists of college-age alumni from 16 day schools. The study contextualized the experience of day school students through comparison with Jewish undergraduates from secular private and public school backgrounds. While the study looked at experiences of graduates of both Orthodox and non-Orthodox day schools, this article will focus on the results pertaining to students from non-orthodox day schools.

Jewish Involvement: Results in the area of Jewish campus involvement were not surprising. The findings point to the demonstrated power of day schools to build strong Jewish identities and connections among students. Those who attended Jewish day schools are more involved than those who did not attend day schools, whether the criterion was enrollment in Jewish studies courses; formal and informal celebration of Jewish holidays; participation in programs on the Holocaust, Israel, and Jewish culture; or volunteering for community service projects sponsored by a Jewish organization. "Students with strong Jewish backgrounds were so used to being connected that they wanted to continue their connection as college students," comments Dina Shkolnick, who worked for Hillel of Metro Detroit in 2005-2006. "This was not the case for many public school students who were not used to being involved." "I cherished those students who benefited from a formal Jewish education," adds Jeff Lazor who was a Hillel professional for five years and now serves as a campaign associate for the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County. "They were bright and enthusiastic, and represented a large number of student leaders on campus."

HDS alumnus, Josh Berman (center), delivered a commencement address at a University of Michigan graduation

Civic Responsibility: Results of the study also show that day schools succeed at imparting a general orientation of civic and social responsibility to their students. Former day school students, compared with their public and private school peers, express a stronger sense of responsibility towards addressing the needs of the larger society by influencing social values, helping those in need, volunteering their time to social change efforts, and finding careers that allow them to be of service to the larger community. Hebrew Day School graduate Gavi Savit, now studying at University of Michigan, commented: "Our ability to ally ourselves with oppressed social groups, which I think is a clear reference to Jewish involvement in the civil rights movement, was prompted by a strong sense of Jewish identity."

Integration into College Life: Like other undergraduates, students who attended day schools participate in all aspects of undergraduate life, and are well represented in the ranks of student leaders. Even though they maintain connections to their day school friends, their social networks are overwhelmingly comprised of new friends they have met in dorms, classes, and through clubs and organizations. Jordan Weiss, a law student at Michigan State University who attended Jewish day schools in Detroit (Hillel Day School and Frankel Jewish Academy) commented: "Because of my upbringing, I had something that gave me a community as soon as I got to university. It did not preclude me from hanging out with other guys on my floor, but I was able to show up at Hillel and feel at home, able to participate, and have elements of home that made me feel comfortable in my new situation."

Academic Performance: The study results showed no significant differences in the self-reported GPAs of those who attended public, private, or Jewish day schools. Study participants were asked to rate their preparation in the areas of history, writing, and study skills. Jewish high school alumni were the most positive about the level of intellectual challenge in their day schools. Their ratings were on par with ratings of alumni from private high schools, and significantly higher than alumni of public schools. However, in math and science and computer literacy, Jewish high school alumni perceive that they were significantly less well prepared as compared with both public and private high school peers. Nevertheless, the study showed that while the perception of preparedness may be low, there are no skill deficits that limit willingness to select major fields of study dependent on skills related to math and science, such as business, social sciences, and hard sciences. Nor are day school graduates more likely than other students to feel the need for tutoring or remedial work in math or science.

Other studies have pointed to the cognitive benefits of learning a second language as a child and its positive impact on critical thinking and on learning other languages at a later time. Students who spend half a day in Hebrew and Judaic studies are engaged in the same academic disciplines needed for secular studies (for example, text comprehension and analysis), but they are doing it in a foreign language.

Summary

For parents, the decision to send their child to a day school is a substantial financial investment that has profound implications for the child's future. The decision is a major commitment to engaging their children in Jewish and civic life. Understandably, parents want to know whether their children will thrive emotionally and academically and be prepared to succeed in the academic arena of higher education and function in a pluralistic society. In the summary section of the new national study, the results and recommendations for parents are summarized according to similarities and differences.

What are the similarities? College-age day school alumni look indistinguishable from their peers who attended public and private schools—they gain entrance into a wide range of universities, including the most select; their overall academic performance is not different. But similarity is not the only story in the data. They do better than their peers on several important dimensions, such as their strong engagement with their heritage and their sense of social responsibility.

Parents who consider Jewish day school for their children want to know that they are not shortchanging their children or restricting their options for higher education. "With very little discernible difference in academic performance or social networking and a world of difference in Jewish living, undergraduates with a history of day school are evidence of the value of the day school choice…The present study provides clear evidence that day schools are successful in launching students from these backgrounds into trajectories of secular academic success and Jewish communal engagement." (Summary and Recommendations, The Impact of Day School: A Comparative Analysis of Jewish College Students, May 2007, Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandies University). ■

For more information about this study and other topics not covered in this summary, see www.peje.org or www.brandeis.edu/cmjs. To learn more about the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, visit www.hdsaa.org, or call 971-4633.

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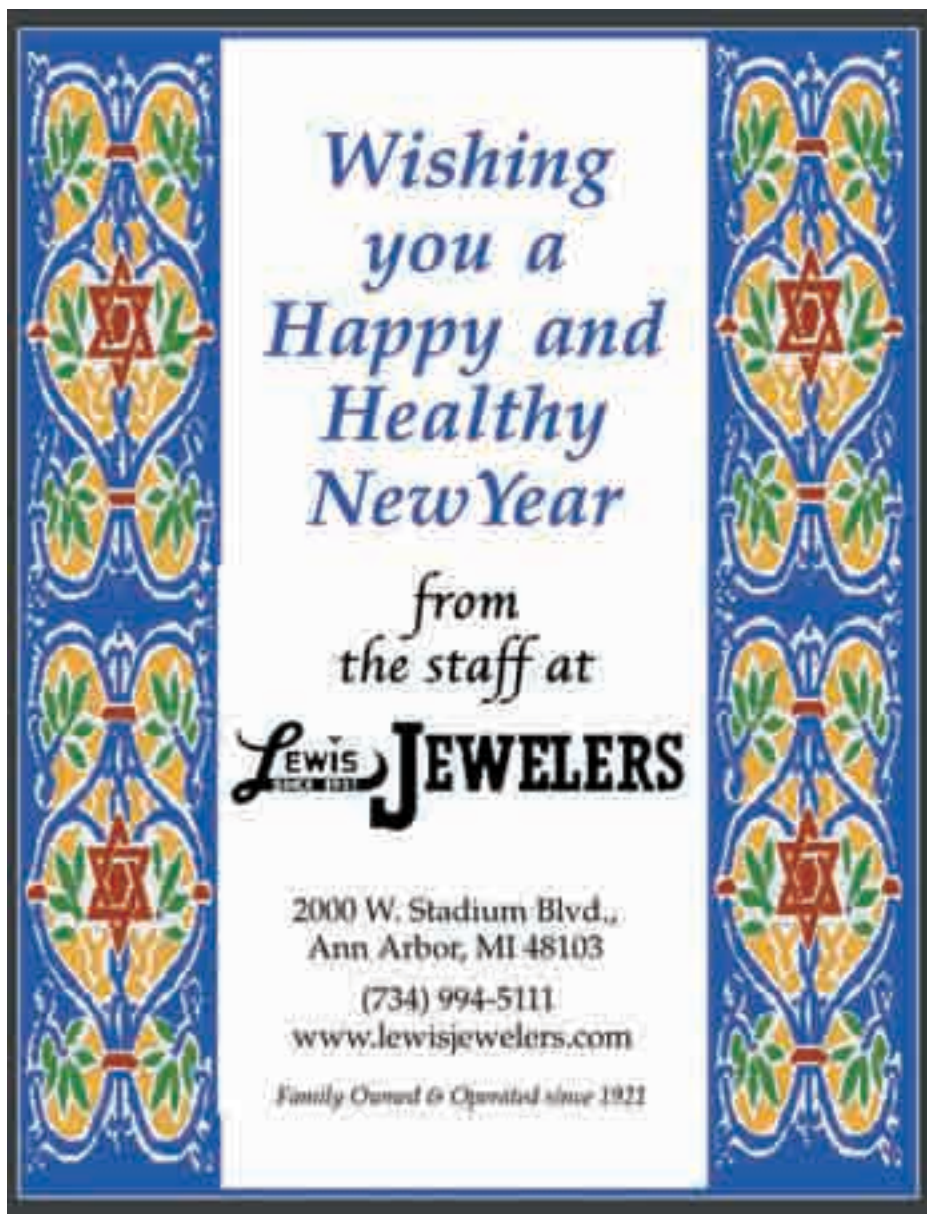

Ann Arbor Maccabi athletes have a great time and bring home gold

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

Seven Jewish Ann Arbor high school aged athletes flew to Houston in early August to compete in the 2007 JCC Maccabi Games. This year Ann Arbor competed in three sports at the Games: soccer, table tennis and flag football. The athletes were accompanied by coaches Ryan Christian and Max Owen.

The Ann Arbor delegation brought home two gold medals in the table tennis competitions. Noah Trobe and Noam Zimet were medal recipients. More importantly, all of the Ann

Top row (l. to r.): Adam Hansell, Gil Eisbruch, Noah Trobe and Ethan Cohen
Middle row: William Scheiman, Noah Share and Ryan Christian
Bottom row: Max Owen and Noam Zimet

Arbor athletes came away from the games with a sense ot accomplishment, new friendships and an experience that they will remember all of their lives.

The first JCC Maccabi Games were held in Memphis in 1982, with 300 athletes participating. The annual event is now held in multiple sites (2007 host communities were Baltimore, MD (August 5-9) Houston, TX (August 5-10), Orange County, CA (August 12-17)) to accommodate the thousands of people who take part. Each host city plans for housing, transporting, entertaining and chaperoning the athletes, as well as organizes the Days of Caring and Sharing Projects. On this day, athletes devote their time and energy to working with community organizations to build homes for the poor, hold carnivals for handicapped children, clean empty lots and other social-action projects.

This year's service project involved increasing literacy among children. Each delegation purchased numerous books and the athletes spent a day doing activities and reading to a child from Houston. The books were given to the children at the end of the event.

Since the Games' inception, 120,000 teens have participated in this community and character-building event. Both boys and girls alike have experienced an event that they won't ever forget. Host community volunteerism has grown exponentially in the past few years.

The Coca-Cola Company® is the continental sponsor of the JCC Maccabi Games. The relationship between Coke and the Jewish Community Center Movement has been a catalyst to the tremendous growth of the Games. Coca-Cola continues to support the goals of the Games as well as provide valuable resources to the Continental Governing Body, the many host communities, and to the participants themselves.

Pioneer High student Noam Zimet comments "This was my first time participating in the Maccabi games and it was a really memorable experience. It was exciting meeting athletes from all over the country, and my host family was great." Community High student Gil Eisbruch adds "I was the only kid from Ann Arbor on a flag football team from Raleigh, North Carolina and all the kids made me feel really welcome on the team and it was a lot of fun. I definitely hope to participate in the Maccabi Games again in the future." The entire Ann Arbor delegation expressed gratitude for the support they received from many generous donors

JCC/ECC to hold Noah's Ark program at Toledo Zoo

Children and their families are invited to a Noah's Ark program at the Toledo Zoo on Sunday, October 14 at 10 a.m. Parents will help their children explore the zoo and the wonders of all the animals on Noah's Ark. Families will hear the story of Noah while learning the animal names in Hebrew and discussing what the Torah has to say about our relationship and responsibility to animals.

This program is sponsored by the JCC Early Childhood Center. The cost for zoo admission is $10 per adult and $8 per child age 2–11. For more information or to register, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email ndeyoung@umich.edu.

JCC Youth programs

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

JCC Kids' Night Out Program in October

A Kids' Night Out program will be held at the JCC on Saturday, October 20 from 6:30–10 p.m. This month's theme is "Put on Your Happy Feet!" The program is open to children in kindergarten through fifth grades and includes a pizza and veggie dinner and an ice cream sundae bar. A penguin craft project and the movie Happy Feet will be featured. The cost of the evening is for $18 JCC members, $16 for additional siblings, and $22 for non-members, $17 for additional siblings. Space is limited so register early. For more information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Fall Youth Enrichment Classes

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is offering a series of youth enrichment classes beginning the week of October 8.

Martial Arts for Health and Fitness will teach boys and girls how to take care of their body and achieve a healthy balanced lifestyle. Class components include physical warm-up exercises, breathing, basic hand and foot techniques and the principles of self-defense.

The class will be held on Thursdays, October 11 through November 15 from 4:15–5:15 p.m. for second through seventh grades. The cost is $80 for Kids Konnection (2 day per week enrollment required for discount), $85 for JCC members and $95 for non-members.

Fast and Fun Floor Hockey is a fast-paced game that teaches children to work as a team, strategize and exhibit good sportsmanship. It's also tons of fun and improves a child's hand-eye coordination.

The class will be held Wednesdays, October 10 through November 14 from 4:15-5:15 p.m for third through fifth grades. The cost is $50 for Kids' Konnection (2 day per week enrollment required for discount), $60 for JCC members and $70 for non-members.

Picture Perfect Photography will teach how to focus, balance contrast, take a panoramic shot and even learn how the parts of a camera work. Children will be able to frame their photos and have their own show. Assistant Camp Director, Nate Bankirer, will be the instructor for this class.

The class will be held on Tuesdays, October 9 through November 13 from 4:15-5:15 p.m. for third through fifth grades. The cost is $60 for Kids Konnection (2 day per week enrollment required for discount), $70 for JCC members, $75 for non-members.

Terrific Tennis teaches children how to serve a tennis ball like a pro. All of the basics of tennis will be covered in this class. Participants will learn to serve, volley, position themselves on the court, and score against their opponent.

The class will be held on Mondays, October 8 through November 12, from 4:15-5:15 p.m. for second through fifth grades. The cost is $50 for Kids Konnection (2 day per week enrollment required for discount), $60 for JCC members and $70 for non-members.

Abrakadoodle is an innovative multimedia art education program that uses a style of art instruction called Process Art. The instructor focuses on what children are learning through the process of creating their art. This style of instruction fosters creativity through experimentation in new art techniques. Classes will run on Tuesdays from October 9 through November 13, from 4:15–5:15 p.m., for kindergarten through third grades. The cost is $65 for Kids' Konnection (2 day per week enrollment required for discount), $70 for JCC members and $75 for non-members. ■

All classes run for six weeks and are open to children in kindergarten through fifth grades. For questions, registration form or more information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Push is on to make communal service a rite of passage in U.S. Jewish life

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) —Yuval Asner, a third-year medical student at the University of Indiana, spent a year in New York after college volunteering as a health-care caseworker with Avodah: The Jewish Service Corps.

Asner, now 26, lived in a communal house helping low-income New Yorkers gain access to health care, and says the experience profoundly affected his approach to medicine.

Ilana Seff, 19, a sophomore at the University of Florida, spent 10 days in January repairing playgrounds and delivering coal to the homebound in Ukraine with a service program run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

"I always had a strong Jewish identity, but this trip really had an impact," she says.

Asner and Seff are among the growing number of Jewish young adults who are taking part in short- and long-term Jewish service programs, signing up for a week, a summer or even a year of social action.

Last year, 4,600 Jewish high school and college students joined Jewish term-of-service programs.

Last year, 4,600 Jewish high school and college students joined Jewish term-of-service programs, whether it be building homes for Hurricane Katrina survivors over spring break with the Union for Reform Judaism or digging wells in Africa with the American Jewish World Service.

Jewish funders are taking notice—in a big way.

"The Jewish philanthropic community has 'discovered' social justice," says Shifra Bronznick, the founder of Bronznick & Co., a management firm for companies in transition that develops programs for the not-for-profit sector. "People recognize that these programs have the potential to be transformative for individuals, to stimulate their interest in engaging in Jewish life and to inspire them to help change the world."

In May, the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation convened a two-day conference in New York of Jewish funders, practitioners and organizations involved in Jewish service programs. The conference was aimed at coordinating efforts, increasing follow-up and, eventually, creating a national movement to make Jewish service a normative part of growing up Jewish in this country.

"We want to make a term of service a rite of passage for young Jewish adults and make authentic Jewish service a central part of American Jewish life," says Lisa Eisen, the Schusterman Foundation's national program director.

The impetus goes beyond young Jews. A task force sponsored by the American Jewish Committee is urging a year of voluntary national service, either civilian or military, for all Americans between 18 and 25.

"Service programs link the rights and privileges of being American with a clear sense of responsibility," states the report, "Imagining America: Making National Service a National Priority." The full report can be found at www.ajc.org.

Those who run Jewish service programs say there is a qualitative difference in terms of Jewish identity-building between taking part in a one-day event, and living and breathing Jewish service for a week or longer together with one's peers.

"Not to take away from the short-term programs, but the long-term programs are much more intensive in terms of learning and contribution," says Linda Levi, assistant executive vice president of the JDC and founder of its Jewish Service Corps, which places young volunteers for year-long assignments in needy Jewish communities around the world. "The impact on the participants and the communities served is much greater."

These programs have the potential to be transformative for individuals, to stimulate their interest in engaging in Jewish life and to inspire them to help change the world

Most of the programs serve Jews and non-Jews. What makes them Jewish is that the participants are Jewish, and they all involve some aspect of Jewish service learning, whether it be talks from rabbis or studying Jewish texts.

Taking part in term-of-service programs has become the thing to do for young Jews, says David Cutler, director of summer programs for the Orthodox-affiliated National Council of Synagogue Youth, which takes hundreds of teenagers to Israel and Ukraine every year.

It's also an effective way of engaging young Jews who are not involved in Jewish life—something communal leaders are quick to seize upon.

"Community service is a very viable expression of Jewish life and Jewish values," says Maggi Gaines, executive director of Spark, a Jewish term-of-service organization that merged in February with Jewish Funds for Justice to help both groups grow. " 'Tikkun olam' speaks to secular Jews, and reclaiming it through a Jewish perspective can be very powerful."

Eisen is among the activists who say the idea is to put more communal Jewish money behind these programs and make them accessible to more young Jews. In this way the next generation will see that making the world a better place is a real priority supported by the Jewish community.

"When the community prioritizes service and social change not just through its teaching and preaching, but also by mobilizing young people for effective action by actually demonstrating our commitment to these ideals, that sends a message that the Jewish community sees responding to human suffering and working for a just and peaceful world as just as important as coming together around prayer and Torah study," says David Rosenn, Avodah's executive director.

More and more groups are getting into the game.

- Over winter break, the Schusterman Foundation spent $1.5 million to fund "Leading Up North," bringing 550 Jewish students and young adults to northern Israel to repair damage caused by last summer's war with Hezbollah. Participants spent 10 days painting 200 bomb shelters, preparing 125 acres of burned forests for replanting, donating 200 gifts of blood and performing other tasks while also studying Jewish texts related to social action.
- In July, Chicago's Jewish Council on Urban Affairs launched Or Tzedek, two weeklong sessions for high school students to work hands-on in low-income communities and learn about Jewish social justice values.
- In 2004, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee began sending small groups of college students to Argentina, Poland and Ukraine during winter and summer break. That first year, Hillel students from the University of Texas painted a school and helped at a medical distribution center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The following year, 10 students from the University of Florida Hillel joined their Polish and Israeli

continued on page 34

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First Grade: Leo Fried, Ethan Kahana, Ahava Kopald

Second Grade: Daniel Hudson

Fifth Grade: Adam Kahana

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Ann Arbor Habonim-Dror Ken Pardes youth group welcomes new kids

Ron Sussman, special to the WJN

Ken Pardes, the local youth group that operates under the umbrella of Habonim Dror Camp Tavor. announced a season of fun and interesting programs at a well-attended kick-off picnic at Veteran's Park on Sunday, September 16. The group is known for welcoming school-age Jewish youth of all affiliations and backgrounds, and for fostering Jewish commitment, creativity, and youth leadership.

Playing a game at Ken Pardes kickoff in September

The group's theme for October is "Cultural Judaism," and events are planned for Friday, October 12 and Sunday, October 28. The theme for November is "Social Justice, with a Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 9. For December, the group's theme is "Diversity," with events on Sundays, December 9 and 16.

According to Sophia Blumenthal, a Community High School senior and one of the leaders of Ken Pardes, "We are looking forward to a great year and we want to welcome returning and new kids to all of our events. We also hope that some of the new kids will choose to attend Camp Tavor, which has been one of the best things in my life so far." Camp Tavor, which recently celebrated its 50th year, is located just 2 hours west of Ann Arbor in Three Rivers, Michigan. It offers a fantastic camping experience featuring fun, creativity, and leadership development. .■

For more information on the Ken Pardes youth group, contact Sophia Blumenthal at 769-1153, Matan Naamani at 904-6578, or Ron Sussman at Ronsussman@aol.com. To learn more about Habonim Camp Tavor, call Ron Sussman at 971-1147 or visit www.camptavor.org.

Area teens participate in Habonim Dror summer tour of Israel

Ron Sussman, special to the WJN

Seven area teens traveled to Israel last summer on a Habonim Dror youth movement trip.

According to Rachel Simon, "The seven of us toured Israel as part of a group of 169 teens from North America. This was the biggest group that had ever gone on the Habonim Dror MBI summer program. It was an amazing program. We learned so much about Israel and really bonded as a group." MBI stands for Machaneh Bonim B'Israel and is the term for the Habonim Dror summer program in Israel for teens who have completed 10th grade.

In a conversation in mid-September, Ana Gordon recalled that a memorable part of the summer Israel trip was experiencing the different culture and the fun, open, comfortable feeling of Israeli society. Mira Preston and Alana Pinsky both added that they intend to stay active in the year-round activities of the Habonim Dror Ken Pardes youth group during this school year and that next summer they are looking forward to participating in the Madatz counselor-in-training program at the Habonim Dror Camp Tavor near Three Rivers, Michigan. .■

Area teens in Israel: Beth Reinstein (Community High School), Alana Pinsky (Pioneer High), Mira Preston (Huron High), Olivia Hern (Huron) Rachel Simon (Community) and Ana Gordon (Pioneer). Not pictured is Evie Morrel-Samuels (Chelsea High).

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Jewish organizations must step up funding to birthright, a proven success

By Charles R. Bronfman

NEW YORK (JTA)—Although the High Holidays have always been a period of introspection, the Jewish community—at least those in it who care deeply about its future—could stand to do some especially vigorous soul searching this year.

The results of a new study—"Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and Their Alienation from Israel"—on young American Jews' attitudes toward Israel were released last week, and the news is disheartening. These Jews, who represent American Judaism's prospects in the next generation, are growing increasingly alienated from Israel, the study finds. They are less concerned with its welfare than previous generations and, unbelievably, less comfortable with the very idea of a Jewish state.

Fewer than half of American Jews under the age of 35 feel that Israel's destruction would be a "personal tragedy." Fewer than half!

The results of the study, which was commissioned by our foundation, are shocking, if not entirely surprising. We've known for some time that young Jews seemed less engaged with the Zionist project than their forebears. And yet, coming face to face now with these data and assimilating the depth of the problem which they portray, is unsettling, to say the least.

What's worse, we already know the answer to this quandary, but for some reason the organized Jewish community continues to pay it too little attention.

The answer I refer to is Taglit-birthright israel, the most successful identity-building program in the history of the Jewish community.

Since 2000, the program has brought 145,000 18- to 26-year-old Jews to Israel on free, 10-day trips and has demonstrated time and again its profound impact on the lives and identities of participants.

Indeed, the experience is often transformational: Many participants were unaffiliated and uninvolved Jewishly before leaving, yet research shows that an overwhelming number return home to take on greater roles in their campus Hillels, enroll in Jewish studies courses and sign up for subsequent Israel trips and semesters abroad.

Others come back and decide to pursue careers in the Jewish community or to engage in Jewish life in traditional and non-traditional ways. Several thousand have even moved to Israel from countries around the world.

At a moment when Jews are intermarrying at an alarming rate and joining synagogues and other Jewish communal organizations at an alarmingly low rate, I don't think I exaggerate when I say that Taglit-birthright israel could prove to be the best salve with regard to one of the pressing communal issues of our day: Jewish continuity.

We in the Jewish philanthropic community have taken this message to heart. In less than eight short years since launching Taglit-birthright israel, private philanthropists have willingly funded the program to the tune of nearly $150 million. But because of the ever-growing popularity of the program, we can't go it alone. Many hundreds of parents and other concerned members of the Jewish community have recently followed suit by making contributions to sustain the program.

But the American Jewish community as a whole must be a full partner and reach deep into its pockets and match our financial commitment to stemming the stampede of our children away from a Jewish connection.

The past four prime ministers of Israel understood this and provided the unprecedented leadership of full partnership. However, organizations like the Jewish Agency for Israel remain unwilling to lay out sufficient funds to accommodate all of the young Jews who wish to participate. As our youth disengage from Israel before our eyes, it is shameful that the Jewish Agency, for which encouraging aliyah is a raison d'etre, would fund a paltry 6 percent of Taglit-birthright israel's annual budget while the waiting list numbers in the thousands.

In the context of the honesty required by this season, what of the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella of the American federation system? UJC also can only find enough cash in its coffers to fund just over 6 percent of the program's budget. That figure represents less than 1 percent of UJC's entire budget for a program that has proved a consistent success, changing thousands upon thousands of Jewish lives and, thereby, potentially altering the course of the American Jewish future.

I ask this as a loving believer and supporter of this system, having been the first UJC chair.

Recently, our foundation made grants to nine federations in the desire to bring federations and birthright closer. The grant is to hire additional staff to help local federations raise money for birthright. However, as the study demonstrates, time is not on our side.

And not only do these groups, and others like them, fail to give sufficiently to Taglit-birthright israel, but they fall short when it comes to creating opportunities for program participants when they return. The Israel trip is an unparalleled catalyst, to be sure. But in order to spark lifetime commitments to Israel and to Jewish peoplehood among young participants, it is equally important that there be ample follow-up options when they return home: meetings, lectures, social events of whatever kind. The trip is the gateway to Jewish identity, but without reinforcement at home, we cannot ensure that the gate remains open.

With his typical combination of vision and practicality, Michael Steinhardt—my partner in co-founding birthright israel—recently announced that he would be allocating millions of dollars for boosting alumni programs. This is truly wonderful news. Yet I'm left wondering why follow-up should remain strictly in the domain of the philanthropists. Should we be left alone to both follow through and follow up?

Why shouldn't Jewish organizations that are funded and supported by members of the U.S. Jewish community, and which aim to buoy, strengthen and perpetuate that community, be supporting these post-program efforts, which are opportunities to raise, educate and promote the young and future leadership of our community? Do these essential ends not justify the allocation of sufficient means?

As we gather in synagogues across this country and around the world for this most auspicious moment in the Jewish calendar, I hope and pray that the leaders of American Jewish organizations, and some of their Israeli counterparts, take a deep look within themselves and, like the philanthropists who fund Taglit-birthright israel in all of its aspects, put their money where their mouths are.

Israeli military commanders are known for leading their troops into battle with the selfless cry "Acharai!"—"After me!" At this important juncture I say to the leaders in the American Jewish organizational world, the time has come. "Acahrai!" ■

Charles R. Bronfman is the chairman of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies

People's Food Co-op and the cause of peace

By Robert Faber

A few days ago the *New York Times* ran a story and picture of Hamas militants harassing Fatah civilians in Gaza – an ugly but increasingly common part of today's Palestinian life. An article the next day reported a rocket attack from Gaza on a small Israeli town – one of seven fired that day – that landed on the empty lot between a day care center and an elementary school, fortunately missing both.

And those were the very days that [some members of] The People's Co-Op of Ann Arbor chose to begin their highly visible protest of Israeli treatment of Palestinian civilians.

In announcing the start of the protest, the *Ann Arbor News* ran a picture of two co-op members holding a large photograph headlined, "Two Palestinian women sitting on a pile of rubble that once was their home." There was of course no mention of the attacks by Palestinians against Palestinians, or about the Palestinian rocket attacks designed to kill Israeli children – nor should there have been. Such incidents are simply that – incidents – footnotes in much larger and infinitely more complex issues. Which is why I was so surprised and disappointed in the co-op people's rush to use such incidents – exceedingly troubling and sad for the individuals involved, but incidents nevertheless – portraying the plight of those two Palestinian women. The picture and its captions failed to mention whether or not that home had been used for manufacturing explosives to be used against Israel. Or whether other residents might have been guilty of placing bombs on Israeli school busses or pizza parlors or dance halls. Or of lobbing such explosives over the border into Israeli residential communities.

Of course they could not have mentioned such possibilities because there is no way of their knowing — which is my point. These two incidents were minor moments in a very large, very old, and terribly complex struggle. And that is part of the reason I was so surprised at the protesters' simplistic and biased response. Despite the flavor of anti-Semitism implied by their stance, such a charge—like the casual presumption of Israeli brutality against Palestinian innocents – is more likely a reflection of the frustration of concerned people seeking an end to destructive violence. But taking actions of such consequence on the basis of their very limited understanding of the background events shaping the conflict is little more productive than simply reaching into a bowl to pick out names of guilty culprits. As a nation, Israel is responsible for some very serious errors and misjudgments and crimes, but for these pickets to blind themselves to the conditions that precipitated the conflict, or to the milieu in which they now try to survive (despite the Palestinian pledge to wipe them off the map), or to ignore the many other murderous incidents of the current or slightly more distant past is to echo those many ugly examples of anti-Semitic racism that they must surely reject.

Obviously much of their distress originates with the Palestinians' loss of a large part of their homeland in 1948, a reasonable reaction to a regrettably offensive development. But even that episode had been preceded and largely precipitated by a series of events that left untold millions of regional and more distant Jews either dead (the Holocaust) or homeless. It was just two years before the establishment of Israel, after all, that the 850,000 Jewish citizens in the Arab lands had been reduced to just 7,600 – some no doubt by choice, but most by expulsion. And Israel was only one-day old when the five neighboring Arab nations, having rejected the United Nations' recommendation of a two-state solution, attacked the infant state in a war of extermination.

None of this should bear on the current dispute, none of it justifies the current level of violence, but conditions of today flow from the past and that past affects all citizens of the Middle East. Unfortunately, this past century's history of that region's violence perpetrated against the Jews simply because they are Jews is part of that past, but is generally outside the knowledge or experience of many activists in the dispute. Such political ignorance might be less troubling from citizens who read no paper or have no interest in world affairs, but for generally knowledgeable and socially involved people like members of the Food Co-Op, such blind antagonism is inexcusable. A friend and frequent customer of the People's Co-Op (not Jewish) describes their prevailing mood as "righteous wrath." He notes that, "none of the ones I've talked to seem in the least receptive to alternative views of the situation, and none knows or cares to know much of the unhappy history of the Middle East. When I asked one of the petitioners about what happened to the Jews who'd lived in Islamic countries, she insisted that every last one of them had left voluntarily—even while maintaining that every last Palestinian was a victim of expulsion. Last weekend I really pushed one of them and asked

continued on next page

Young American Jews less attached

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Young American Jews are increasingly alienated from Israel, according to a report released last month.

The report, titled "Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and their Alienation from Israel" and commissioned by The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, generally substantiates current suspicions rather than revealing new surprises.

The major findings are that successively younger American Jews feel increasingly distant from Israel, and that the trend has been increasing steadily for decades.

For example, fewer than half (48 percent) of respondents younger than 35 agreed that "Israel's destruction would be a personal tragedy," compared to 78 percent of those 65 and older. And just 54 percent of the younger group is "comfortable with the idea of a Jewish State," compared to 81 percent of those 65 or older, 74 percent of those in the 50-64 age group and 64 percent in the 35-49 group.

The report is based on data from the 2007 National Survey of American Jews, a mail- and Web-administered survey conducted in December 2006 and January 2007 by Synovate, Inc. It only considers the attitudes of non-Orthodox Jews.

Of 1,828 respondents, 124 Orthodox were removed from the sample on the assumption that their relationship to Israel is markedly closer than that of their non-Orthodox peers.

According to one of the report's co-authors, Steven Cohen, a sociologist and research professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, the generational differences are more a function of the decade people were born than where they are on the life-cycle continuum.

That means the American Jewish detachment from Israel will increase as younger Jews age and replace their parents and grandparents' generations.

"There is growing discomfort with the drawing of hard group boundaries of all sorts," Cohen said of the so-called "millennials," those born after 1980. "The idea of a Jewish state reflects hard group boundaries, that there is a distinction between Jews and everybody else. That does not sit well with young Jews."

Overall, the picture of detachment from Israel is not as dismal as those figures might suggest, Cohen argued. More than 60 percent of Jews younger than 35 in the study show "some level" of attachment to or caring about Israel.

"The glass is still half full, it's just not as full as it used to be," said Cohen, who wrote the report with Ari Kelman, assistant professor of American studies at the University of California, Davis.

Political leanings didn't seem to affect the attitudes of younger Jews toward Israel. In fact, the data suggest that those who say they vote Republican or describe themselves as politically conservative are more alienated from Israel than self-professed liberals.

Cohen surmised that there are so few young, non-Orthodox, right-wing American Jews that they are distanced from their Jewish peers in general, including when it comes to Israel.

The overall slide in attachment to or interest in Israel does not mean that young American Jews are less "Jewish." On the contrary, numerous recent studies and anecdotal evidence demonstrate great cultural and religious vitality and creativity among young Jews. Israel is just not as much a part of the picture, which should concern the greater community, the report warns.

"It's worrying that young Jews may be creating a latter-day Jewish Bundism, which affirms Jewish belonging but is neutral to the Zionist enterprise," Cohen told JTA. "We're seeing this growing phenomenon of Jews who have no problem saying the Shema but won't sing 'Hatikvah.'"

Rabbi Elie Kaunfer, executive director of Mechon Hadar, which provides networking and support to startup minyans nationwide, seconded the notion that young Jews have a more nuanced attitude toward Israel than their elders. In the independent minyan movement, he said, that means they have not yet figured out how to do Israel programming.

"I think that reflects a problem that our generation has not solved: how to engage with Israel without slogan-slinging" -- left-wing or right-wing – "but still remain emotionally engaged," he said.

Kaunfer described Israel Independence Day celebrations at these minyans as "muted, not because of a lack of connection to Israel, but because we are still searching for appropriate ways to celebrate and connect to" the Jewish state.

One factor that seems to increase the attachment of young Jews to Israel quite dramatically is, not surprisingly, spending time in Israel.

While the report shows that 19 percent of young Jews who have never been to Israel exhibit a "high" level of attachment to the country, the number jumps to 34 percent after a first trip and 52 percent after two or more trips.

Conversely, 42 percent of young Jews who have never been to Israel report a "low" level of attachment. That number drops to 17 percent after just one trip.

The policy implications?

"Trips matter," Cohen and Kelman write. "More trips are better than fewer, and trips of longer duration have more impact than those with shorter duration."

"In some ways, that's the most dramatic finding" of the report, said Barry Chazan, professor of Jewish education at Spertus College in Chicago and educational director of birthright israel, which has taken nearly 150,000 college-age and post-college Jews to Israel over the past seven years.

The finding confirms what Chazan and his colleagues have been telling people: Taking young American Jews to Israel on these free, carefully organized trips is a powerful tool in Jewish identity-building.

"The motivation is strong; they're not being dragged there," he said. "They get a hefty dose of Zionist history, Jewish history and contemporary Israel. It's very explicitly about that."

Chazan has just finished a book about birthright, scheduled for a publication this spring, with Leonard Saxe, director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

They dispute the Cohen-Kelman report's prediction of a continuing downslide in American Jewish attachment to Israel, and say birthright has a lot to do with their optimism.

"Tens of thousands of young adults are having these experiences in Israel," Saxe said. "It will create a generation of people who know Israel and are interested in Israel that is unprecedented."

After last summer's war with Lebanon, Saxe's center at Brandeis did a study comparing the reactions of birthright alumni to those of young American Jews who had not participated in a birthright program. They found "dramatic differences," Saxe said.

"Program alumni got their information in very different ways from those that had not been on the program," he said. "They looked to the Israeli media, or got news directly from the Israelis they'd met. You had past participants reaching out to the Israelis they knew, not just watching it on CNN."

Saxe pointed out that registration for this winter's birthright programs opened Wednesday and that by 10 a.m., 6,000 people had signed up.

"If there's that much interest in Israel and in traveling to Israel," he concluded, "it's hard to say we're facing a crisis."

Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and their Alienation from Israel *can be accessed online at www.acbp.net/publications.html.* ■

Co-op from previous page

her if the Jews would be allowed to return to Mecca if the proposal passed. When I pointed out that Mohammed himself had thrown them out, she was so mad she practically spit at me."

Destructive turbulence is unacceptable regardless of its history, whether Palestinian-inspired or as responsive Israeli acts of retribution, but it does remain a part of the equation and dealing with it demands much more restraint and objectivity than these committed proponents of peace seem willing to expend. Uncritical support of either militant Palestinians or vengeful Israeli partisans simply has no role in fair or productive analyses of the Middle East mayhem and is much more destructive than beneficial.

Personal sacrifice to serve the needs of humanity can be a noble commitment, but misplaced nobility that furthers acts of violence rather than the cause of peace can be as destructive as the anti-humanitarian crimes of the worst of the participants. Individual members of a society committed to the health and well-being of their fellows – such as The People's Co-Op of Ann Arbor – must seek to more fully understand the background of the dispute and the causes of its violence before condemning either side in social or military struggles. Supporting one side against the other in such delicate and complex issues with inadequate background information is too much like joining in mob violence – and that is simply not acceptable for idealists who seek a better world. ■

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Record anti-Semitism in Britain is stoking unease among Jews

By Vanessa Bulkacz

LONDON (JTA)—With anti-Semitism in Britain at record levels, life is changing in subtle and not-so-subtle ways for the country's Jews.

Armed guards escort Orthodox Jews in Manchester walking to synagogue. Vendors sell Arabic-language editions of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" outside train stations. Academic and labor unions routinely issue calls to boycott the Jewish state.

Jews in Britain say they feel a growing sense of unease and insecurity.

"Jews today compared with three or four years ago are feeling increasingly worried about anti-Semitism," said Mark Gardner, a spokesman for the Community Security Trust, or CST, the organization charged with providing security for the country's Jews.

Apparently they have good reason to worry. A recent CST report showed that all forms of anti-Semitism in Britain increased in 2006.

Last year saw the highest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in Britain since record-keeping began in 198—a 33 percent increase over the previous year. Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain have doubled in the last decade.

Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain have doubled in the last decade.

Jews are violently assaulted and subjected to threats. Schoolchildren face abuse. Communal property and synagogues are damaged and desecrated. And Britain is home to a growing cottage industry of mass-produced, anti-Semitic literature.

The sharp rise in anti-Semitism has not gone unnoticed in Parliament, which in 2005 formed an investigative committee to address the Jewish community's concerns.

In its first report in September 2006, the All Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism recommended investigating the reason for the low number of prosecutions of anti-Semitic crimes and developing strategies to combat rising anti-Semitism. The report, which is available at http://thepcaa.org/Report.pdf, found that only a minority of police forces in the country were even equipped to record hate crimes as anti-Semitic incidents.

"Anti-Semitism has not been taken as seriously as other forms of hatred in some parts of our society," Iain Wright, the parliamentary undersecretary of state for communities and local government, acknowledged this summer.

Wright pledged to increase significantly funding for monitoring and classifying anti-Semitism as a hate crime.

But are any of these responses to the problem making Jews feel safer?

In some communities, residents are volunteering to help provide security for Jews.

"Community leaders are trying to find ways to harness the fact that people want to help," Gardner said.

For secular Jews in Britain, who may not be subject to the same street dangers that visibly Orthodox Jews face, the country's increasingly populist anti-Israeli campaigns have been unsettling.

"When people start talking about how terrible Israel is behaving, I feel sensitive about it and how it might possibly be linked to anti-Semitism, even if it wasn't meant that way," said Lauren Tobias, who works in London. "Then I find myself acting very defensive."

Gardner said the boycott Israel movement "has an anti-Semitic impact psychologically on the Jewish community. Boycotts remind us of the Nazi boycott of Jews."

One British journalist, Richard Littlejohn, said bashing Israel has become so trendy that it is "this year's AIDS ribbon."

As in other places in Europe, anti-Semitism in Britain isn't limited to the extreme right. On the far left, in unions and other forums where liberal-leaning Jews once felt politically at home, activists now leading the charge against Israel are driving Jews away.

Josephine Bacon, director of a Hebrew and Yiddish translation company, said she feels under attack at her volunteer office job in the Labor Party.

"I get incredible hostility at work at the Camden Labor Party," said Bacon, who holds dual British and Israeli citizenship. "The only reason it's not the same as the anti-Semitism of the '30s is that Israel exists now."

Bacon says many Jews are "voting with their feet" and cutting ties with the Labor Party, Bacon said, or "if they stay in the party, they don't talk about their past."

Anti-Israel activists by and large reject accusations that their campaigns are anti-Semitic. Ian McDonald, a senior lecturer from Brighton who supports the University College Union's proposed academic boycott of Israel, said in debates about the boycott, "We have to challenge the notion that to be anti-Zionist is to be anti-Semitic."

At a recent debate on the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism, Wright called the boycott proposal "anti-Jewish in principle." But that pronouncement hasn't changed matters much on the streets.

Last year the CST launched a program to safeguard Jewish schools and community centers, pledging more than $6 million over a three-year period to install bomb-proof windows in some 600 community buildings.

Despite those efforts to help religious communities across the country beef up security, for some it hasn't been enough.

British Jews are choosing to move to Israel in record numbers. British aliyah last year set a new record with 738 new immigrants, a two-thirds increase over the year before, according to the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Nevertheless, agency spokesman Michael Jankelowitz told JTA he doesn't believe the aliyah is the result of British Jews fleeing anti-Semitism at home.

"By and large the reasons for aliyah are positive ones," he said.

Bacon said that despite the hostility she faces in Britain, she has no plans to move.

"I'm determined to tough it out," she said. "I think that the current wave of anti-Semitism will eventually die out. But I can't say how soon." ■

Trinidad's Jews stick together

By Larry Luxner

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad (JTA)—Hindu temples, Muslim mosques and Catholic churches can be found all over this oil-exporting island famous for Carnival, callaloo soup and calypso.

But don't look for synagogues in Trinidad — there aren't any.

No more than 55 Jews live here, despite the fact that Trinidad & Tobago's 1.3 million inhabitants make it the second-largest English-speaking nation in the Caribbean, exceeded in population only by Jamaica.

The few Jews who call this twin-island republic home maintain a very low profile because of the country's turbulent racial history and a 1990 uprising by the Jamaat al-Muslimeen, a radical Muslim sect.

Tensions were exacerbated recently when U.S. and Trinidadian authorities arrested four men in a plot to blow up fuel-storage tanks at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. The four allegedly had ties to an Islamic terrorist cell in Trinidad, and one of the suspects is a former member of the Guyanese Parliament.

Yet Jewish leaders here take pains to emphasize they "have no difficulty" with the established local Muslim community.

"We've never had any open conflict with them, we've never felt threatened and they have never targeted us," said Barbara Malins-Smith, who has been nominated as Israel's first honorary consul in Port of Spain, Trinidad's capital. "But bearing in mind the current atmosphere, Jews throughout the world have to be extremely vigilant."

Jews once had strong business and personal ties with Trinidad's small but influential Christian Arab community, which traces its roots to Lebanon and Syria.

Trinidad's ethnic and religious mix is unusually diverse for such a small country: 32 percent of its people are Roman Catholic, 28 percent are Protestant and 24 percent are Hindu. Another 6 percent are Muslim -- a consequence of large-scale immigration from India during the 19th century, when they were imported as indentured servants to work the sugar plantations.

"Ours is a very small community," Jewish community leader Hans Stecher told JTA. "We embrace into our midst people with Jewish roots who are interested in their heritage. We have many sympathizers. Some of our members are Jewish women married to Trinidadians and people descended from Sephardim who have feelings for their origins."

Yet unlike Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, Nevis and St. Thoma—where ancient synagogues and Hebrew gravestones attest to a Caribbean Jewish presence stretching back hundreds of years—Jews have lived in Trinidad only since the 1930s.

Curiously, the six-pointed Star of David is the symbol of Trinidad's national police, and in one Jewish-built housing complex near Diego Martin—a suburb of Port of Spain—all the streets are named after Israeli pioneers like Chaim Weizmann, Golda Meir and David Ben-Gurion.

Although St. Vincent Street once had a synagogue, "most of the Jews here in Port of Spain were not really religious. The majority were intellectuals," said Malins-Smith, who was born in Guyana and moved here in 1972.

For years Stecher, who until recently ran a large chain of duty-free retail stores, has been the most prominent Jew in Trinidad.

Stecher, 83, recalled how as a 15-year-old boy he arrived in Trinidad as a Viennese refugee with his family following Germany's annexation of Austria. During World War II, he was among about 700 Jews interned as "enemy aliens," though once the war was over most left for the United States, Canada or Venezuela.

The few Jews who stayed, like the Stecher family, prospered and became leaders in the local retailing, tourism and construction industries. They held fund-raisers for Israel, buried their dead in a special Jewish section of the Mucurapo Cemetery and sponsored a drama club that performed plays in Hebrew.

But independence from England in 1962 and the subsequent rise of the "black power" movement unnerved the Jewish community, which at the time numbered 30 or 40 families.

"The revolution was justified and it brought about a number of positive changes for Trinidad, but it was a bit frightening, and a lot of Jewish people didn't want to be in that stew again, having lost everything in Europe," Stecher said. "So they decided to pack up and leave for North America."

Stecher says "the average Trinidadian knows very little about Jews." Malins-Smith jokes that "people in the Caribbean think all Jews look like Chasidim."

Malins-Smith says she rediscovered her own Jewish roots the day her sons, Alex and Philip, came home from school and announced they wanted to be Catholic, like everyone else.

"That's when it hit me, that my Judaism would end with me, because I was an only child," she said. "The rest of my family had all married out of the faith. They emigrated to Canada, and a majority of them are no longer Jewish."

This lack of yiddishkeit in Trinidad inspired 31-year-old Web site designer Sarina Nicole Bland in 2003 to establish B'nai Shalom, an informal Jewish organization that meets in members' homes for occasional services and Jewish holidays.

Perhaps the tiny community's biggest success is getting Trinidad's head of state, Patrick Manning, to visit Israel in November 2005 —the first time a prime minister from any Caribbean country had ever made an official visit to Israel, according to community members.

Manning, who is running for re-election this year, has publicly supported Israel, as have various Pentecostal and evangelical churches throughout Trinidad.

But not everyone here is favorably inclined toward Israel or the Jews.

A flurry of articles in local newspapers suggested that Israel and the United States are secretly planning to overthrow Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, using nearby Trinidad as a jumping-off point.

An article in the local Mirror tabloid—headlined "Is Manning a Mossad Agent?" —suggested that, "After all, with the Middle East in turmoil and with Israel pushing for further chaos by trying to set the stage for a U.S. strike on Iran, Venezuela's supply of oil is critical to the U.S. economy, which incidentally is controlled by the Jews."

Few Trinidadians take those accusations seriously, though Stecher says he and his fellow Jews are concerned.

"It's all a callaloo," he said, using the word for a spicy Caribbean dish. "There's always the dilemma of whether one should respond or not to such charges. Sometimes it's better not to respond." ■

Looking for Jews in the rough, Chabad combs Australia's Outback

By Dan Goldberg

SYDNEY (JTA—The idea of hunting for Jews in the Australian Outback may sound as ridiculous as combing the streets of Jerusalem for Aborigines. But when two Chabad emissaries set out this summer to find landsmen in the desolate Outback, they were not disappointed.

In fact, had history turned out a little different, there would have been a Jewish colony in the Australian wilderness, but in 1944 then-Australian Prime Minister John Curtin quashed a plan called the Kimberley Project to resettle 75,000 Jews from Nazi Europe in the Outback.

More recent, Australia's colorful Orthodox rabbi, Joseph Gutnick, became known in the 1990s as "Diamond Joe" after his mining companies in the Western Australian desert struck rich veins, which Gutnick claims the Lubavitcher rebbe prophesied with a blessing on a map.

The rebbe is dead and the diamonds have dried up, but Jews are still searching the Outback. Only now it is Chabad emissaries seeking Jews, not jewels, in the Australian wilderness.

"The Lubavitcher rebbe instilled in us a love for every single Jew," said Chaim Telsner, one of two visiting yeshiva students from New York who traveled through the Outback over the summer in a bright red-and-yellow Winnebago emblazoned with the Lubavitcher rebbe's face looking for a few good Jews.

He and Mendel Grossbaum, a Minnesota native, were brought to Australia by the Chabad of Rural and Regional Australia to cross the continent in a "mitzvah tank" in search of Outback Jews.

"Most of the places we visit only have one Jew," Telsner said. "We'll drive four to six hours for one Jew."

Saul Spigler, who founded the Chabad of Rural Australia in 1977, estimates there are 7,000 to 10,000 Jews living outside Australia's major metropolitan-area cities. For years he has been overseeing a project to find, register and impact rural Australian Jews.

Operating on a shoestring budget and with only one full-time employee, Spigler says his project to reach the Jews of Australia's remote areas yields high returns.

"Every Jew has a spark of Judaism, and you'll be surprised how that spark becomes a burning bush sometimes," said Spigler, who has 3,000 rural Australian Jews on his Chabad database. "There's no other Chabad operation like this in the world that I know of."

Spigler, a lawyer, reels off stories from his years on the road: the man living in tropical north Queensland who thought the mezuzah they installed on his door was a menorah; the priest on the island of Tasmania who asked to put on tefillin; the pig farmers in northern New South Wales who turned out to be Jews; the 90-year-old man in Western Australia who had never had a bar mitzvah until the mitzvah tank arrived at his door.

Most rural Australian Jews are amazed that the Chabadniks have traveled so far just to be with them, Spigler says.

"The chance to have some lasting impact is really there. It's one of the reasons that inspired me" to create the Chabad of rural Australia, he said.

Ruthi Urbach is the only Jew living in Scone, a town in rural New South Wales best known as the last resting place of Australia's richest man, media tycoon Kerry Packer.

Operating on a shoestring budget and with only one full-time employee, Spigler says his project to reach the Jews of Australia's remote areas yields high returns.

"To have these boys turn up out of the blue just to say hello and bring some Jewish contact into our lives was just lovely," she told JTA. "It's a good feeling to know that someone out there has come so far just to see we are here."

Michael Rosenfeld, who was one of the people Spigler visited back on his first trip to look for Jews in rural Australia in 1977, said the visit had a profound effect on him.

"Growing up I didn't really have a lot of contact" with other Jews, Rosenfeld said. "I think they were a very important link for me at a critical time in my childhood."

Rabbi Dov Oliver became Chabad of Rural and Regional Australia's first full-time employee in 2004. He grew up in Melbourne; his father was a rabbi who traveled as far as Singapore to spread Yiddishkeit.

"The rural aspect is driving around the Outback looking for Jews," Oliver said. "The regional aspect is different. My wife and I will fly somewhere where there are between 30 to 100 Jews and set up shop for a couple of weeks for a Pesach seder, Chanukah program or Rosh Hashanah."

Oliver manages the mitzvah tank Winnebago, ensuring it is staffed by yeshiva students and stocked with kosher food, Jewish books, mezuzahs, tefillin and other Jewish paraphernalia.

"A fellow named Joseph in Darwin made a huge impression on me," Oliver recalls. "He is elderly, has had a stroke, is quite poor and his wife left him. He knows little about Yiddishkeit but sits every Friday night and lights candles." ■

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Threats and opportunities dot landscape for European Jewry

By Dinah A. Spritzer

PRAGUE (JTA) — For European Jewry, it was a year of the good, the bad and the ugly.

The good: The election of a French president seen as sympathetic to Israel, the opening of new Jewish institutions, and increased opportunities for Jews from eastern countries that have joined the European Union.

The bad: Boycotts and threats of boycotts boiled over in England, with fears that similar anti-Israel efforts would spread elsewhere in Europe.

The ugly: Alarming levels of anti-Semitism. Several organizations and individual country reports revealed a marked rise of anti-Semitic incidents across Western Europe in the second half of 2006.

These incidents were primarily the result of the prolonged negative reaction in Europe to Israel's two-month war against Hezbollah in Lebanon last summer, say observers.

The mood in Europe was stoked by media coverage ``that was one-sided, focused only on Lebanese casualties and implicated Jews in general," said Ilan Moss, political counselor for the Paris-based European Jewish Congress.

In Britain, the Community Security Trust reported the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents since it began monitoring in 1984, with a 60 percent increase in the second half of the year. In France, the country's main secular Jewish umbrella organization, CRIF, recorded a 24 percent rise in anti-Jewish incidents in general, and a 45 percent increase in violent incidents.

There was also an upsurge in anti-Semitic attitudes, according to research conducted by the Anti-Defamation League in May. The ADL found that 44 percent of those surveyed in France, Poland, Germany, Italy and Spain agreed with the statement that "Jews have too much power in international financial markets," while 39 percent believed "Jews have too much power in the business world."

Human Rights First, a U.S.-based non-governmental organization, took European governments to task in June for their lack of a coherent response to the problem of anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

"Today the parallels with the 1930s include the seeming indifference of many governments and broad sectors of public opinion to the rising violence and fear that once again threatens European Jews, and with them members of other minorities," said the Human Rights First report.

In many of the countries where anti-Semitic violence was on the rise, the perpetrators, according to police, were of Arab descent.

``This year made it even clearer that in the coming years, the issue of minority coexistence is one of the greatest challenges of the continent," said Tomer Orni, executive vice president of the London-based European Council of Jewish Communities.

As communities press governments for greater security and programs to better combat anti-Semitism, Moss said Jewish leaders are also focused on the boycott of Israel proposed by Britain's largest teachers' union. The University and College Union voted May 30 to consider an academic boycott of Israeli universities.

Almost immediately after the UCU move, the country's largest trade union decided to consider a boycott motion at its upcoming conference. While UCU represents 120,000 members, UNISON has more than a million. Another proposed boycott by a British journalists' union was ultimately rejected.

``We are worried about these kind of boycotts spreading throughout Europe. We don't sees it as directly anti-Semitic, but since there are no such boycotts against any other country in the world, you have to wonder about the motives," said Serge Cwajgenbaum, the EJC's general-secretary.

As always, European policy toward Iran and the Middle East was a source of concern for Jewish leaders, Cwajgenbaum noted.

The European Union was a faithful member of the Quartet, the international body seeking resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that also includes the United States, Russia and the United Nations. The Quartet has agreed to isolate Hamas until it renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's right to exist, but there were signs that some E.U. member states wanted a softer position on Hamas, on funding for Palestinians in general and a tougher line on Israel.

On July 10, for instance, European foreign ministers, led by France, posted an open letter in the French daily Le Monde calling for Israel to make more concessions for peace.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel continued to reinforce her reputation as a champion of Jewish and Israeli causes.

But there were other political developments in Europe that gave Jews a hopeful outlook.

In France, home to Europe's largest Jewish population, a president viewed by most as sympathetic to Jewish and Israeli causes took office in May.

Nicolas Sarkozy, a right-leaning centrist whose grandfather was Jewish, received overwhelming support from the country's Jewish voters, according to JTA interviews. Many applauded his tough stance against anti-Semitism in his previous post as Interior Minister.

Sarkozy was and is widely expected to be more sympathetic to Israel's need to protect itself from Palestinian aggression than his long-serving predecessor, Jacques Chirac.

As commentator Frederic Encel put it, Sarkozy is "by far the most pro-Israeli French presidential figure Israel could have hoped for. However, in the long term, some analysts observed that Sarkozy has in the past supported closer ties between France and Syria, which might mean increased pressure on Israel to evacuate the Golan Heights in return for a peace deal with Syria.

In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel continued to reinforce her reputation as a champion of Jewish and Israeli causes.

"We will fight the new anti-Semitism along with the old. Germany and the European Union are committed to the security of the citizens of Israel," she said on a visit to Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in April.

The most heated political event among Jewish communities in 5767 was the election of the Russian Jewish Congress president, Moshe Kantor, to the helm of the European Jewish Congress.

Kantor, the first Eastern European elected to the post of EJC chairman, beat the French incumbent Pierre Besnainou in May, with support from a wide majority of the delegates representing 41 European Jewish communities.

Kantor recently made his first trip as EJC president to Israel, where he was warmly welcomed by Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, despite lingering concerns that his closeness to the Kremlin will keep him from speaking out against Russian President Vladimir Putin's support of Iran's nuclear program or his soft stance on Hamas, whose leaders Putin welcomed to Moscow.

Kantor's election was viewed by many of Europe's communities as uniting EJC, which has previously shown the strain of battles between East and West.

This tension was reflected within a single European capital: Berlin's Jewish community split this year as a new group was formed in response to the growing influence of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

After months of angry exchanges pitting Albert Meyer, an attorney and former president of the Berlin Jewish community, against representatives of the new Russian majority, Meyer announced in mid-April that he had joined with historian Julius Schoeps to form a breakaway group.

Ultimately, observers say, the split is about the need for new power structures in the German Jewish community, which has quadrupled to more than 120,000 since 1990 with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Within Europe, meanwhile, greater unity was heralded among Jews as Romania and Bulgaria were accepted Jan. 1 into the now 27-member European Union.

For Jews, about 8,000 in Bulgaria and 15,000 in Romania, the move means greater hope for the future as their economies strengthen and they can obtain jobs at home, or work abroad without barriers.

``We have negative aliyah — young people who were already in Israel are coming back to Bulgaria because the economic situation is improving," said Emil Kahlo, a former president of Shalom, the largest Jewish organization in Bulgaria.

There were other large celebratory occasions for European Jewry.

The Ohel Jakob synagogue and community center was inaugurated in Munich on the symbolic date of Nov. 9, the 68th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Hitler's terrible release of anti-Jewish violence in the same city and across Germany.

In Poland, Jews in February heralded the renovation and re-opening of the Yeshiva Chachmei Lublin, the largest yeshiva in Europe before World War II. Members of Poland's small Jewish community hope the 1930s building and synagogue will attract tourist groups, worshipers and religious students from around the world.

And as a sign of the diversity of even Poland's small Jewish community, Rabbi Burt Schuman of New York was installed as Poland's first full-time Progressive rabbi at Beit Warszawa last October

In May, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews broke ground in Warsaw. To be completed in 2009, the museum will be the largest Jewish institution of its kind in Europe, commemorating the 1,000 years of history of what was the largest Jewish community in Europe before World War II.

But in Poland as elsewhere in Europe, Jewish life coexisted with the ugly resurgence of anti-Semitic incidents and attitudes.

A Polish member of the European Parliament, Maciej Giertych, published a pamphlet in February that said Jews were unethical, unable to integrate into society and are a ``tragic community" because they don't accept Jesus as the messiah.

A controversial Polish Catholic priest continued to attract condemnation after allegedly making anti-Semitic remarks. Tadeusz Rydzyk, founder of the Catholic Radio Station Radio Maryja, was quoted by *Wprost* magazine in July as calling Jews greedy and criticizing Polish President Lech Kaczynski for supporting the establishment of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Rydzyk, whose radio station has a history of anti-Semitic commentary, was later welcomed by Pope Benedict XVI at his summer residence outside of Rome, much to the chagrin of Jewish groups. ■

Yasmin Levy sings music from the heart in Spanish and Ladino

Sandor Slomovits, special to the WJN

When I was still a young boy, I fell in love with Italian opera. I didn't understand a single word of Italian then, and had no idea what the singers were singing about. I listened the way I did to symphonic music, with the voices serving simply as instruments, carrying no lyric meaning. And yet, as with instrumental music, the music of opera, the glorious voices, conveyed powerful emotions, even without the lyric content. I often found myself deeply moved, experiencing feelings I did not even have names for, despite—or perhaps even because—I did not understand the lyrics.

Later, I learned to listen to opera differently, often following along with the score, having a transliteration as well as a word-for-word translation before me. The experience was, of course, richer in some ways, but no deeper. Later still, when I saw my first live opera production (La Boheme, at the Met no less) it was a different experience yet, like seeing the movie of a book that one has read repeatedly.

I thought of all this recently when my brother loaned me two CDs by the Israeli singer, Yasmin Levy. Levy sings in Ladino and Spanish, languages that I know scarcely any better than I did Italian, and once again I found myself listening only with my heart. (Please forgive the flowery expression. With Levy's music it feels apt.) I felt very little frustration at not understanding the meanings of the songs. For the most part, I was content to disengage my mind and simply listen. And as happened when I listened to opera without knowing what the singers were saying, I found myself profoundly moved.

(Not only don't I speak Levy's languages, I am also not conversant with Sephardic music, so here's an up front caveat. What follows will not attempt to be a learned, knowledgeable review, but simply my personal reactions to Levy's music.)

Levy's voice is a far cry from the Italian operatic tradition. She has less in common with the expansive Italian bel canto style than with the deep-in-the-throat, tightly wound tones of flamenco singers. If there is opera in her voice, it's not the otherworldly, ethereal beauty of Puccini's Mimi, but rather the earthy, wild, gypsy fierceness of Bizet's Carmen. Which is not to say that Levy does not have a glorious voice, because she does. In addition to being beautiful, it is also a voice that is supple, agile and sinuous, easily handling the highly ornamented styles in which she sings. Her singing is always dramatic, never hysterical, by turns velvet-smooth and sandpaper-harsh, passionately stirring and sweetly soothing.

Yasmin Levy

Her music is not easy listening, elevator musak. There is nothing frivolous about it. It insists, even demands to be listened to. I wouldn't put her CDs on as background music for dinner guests, unless it was to say, "Here, listen to this!" Listen to her at the end of a long hard day, or at the beginning of a slow, quiet one, when you don't want to think, just want to feel. Or listen to her in your car, on solitary, long drives. She'll make good company there too.

The two Levy CDs I've been listening to are Romance, which came out in 2000 and La Juderia, released four years later. There is evident change and growth in her work. La Juderia is at once more identifiably Ladino, and yet also has a broader range than Romance. Levy's singing has grown closer to flamenco, is even more passionate, heartfelt and wilder than on Romance. Rather than mellowing with age, she seems to have come more into herself, more into her tradition. But on La Juderia she is more adventurous in the studio, double tracking her voice to create lush harmonies. She also chooses some songs, such as the classic, Gracias a la vida, by famed South American singer songwriter, Violeta Parra, that are well outside the Ladino tradition.

Both CDs share a similar sensibility. All of Levy's songs, arrangements and singing have an unrushed, organically developing quality. The songs unfold at their own just-right pace and carry you on voyages deep into, and out of, yourself.

Of course, eventually, I did want to know what Levy's lyrics mean. And, since there are only Hebrew translations on the CD liner notes, and my command of Hebrew is also limited, I turned, once again, to my friend Rabbi Dobrusin for help. His translations confirmed the feelings I'd experienced in listening to the songs. Levy sings of common aspects of the human condition, of loneliness, of love gained and lost, but she does not sing in pop trivialities. "Come, my beloved, please come to me. I will tell you my troubles and a tear will fall from your eyes." There are tender songs to her children, such as the acapella lullaby, Nani, nani, that closes Romance. "My beloved son, you will very quickly grow. Your father is coming home with great joy." And there are spiritual songs, sometimes directly quoting from the prayers; other times using images such as the giving of the Torah metaphorically. La Juderia closes with Tu y yo subimos al cielo, "You and I will climb up to the heavens," a stunning farewell to someone she loved who has died. "The ground that is embracing you is crying. The flowers, their colors will go, but I will continue to watch over you."

Ultimately, it matters little how you choose to listen to Levy's music, understanding her lyrics or not. As she sings in one of her songs, "Love, like anything that is beautiful, has no explanation."

A sad coda: as I write this I hear that the legendary Italian operatic tenor, Luciano Pavarotti has died. I was already on fire for opera before I ever heard him, but, as for countless others, he fanned the flames considerably. Addio Luciano. Grazie mille. ■

West Side Story *article correction noted*

Thanks to reader Ed Kimball for bringing to our attention a mistake in last month's article on *West Side Story's* 50th anniversary. He writes:

"I enjoy Sandor Slomovits' contributions to the *Washtenaw Jewish News*. They are always informative and interesting.

But he made a blunder in his article about *West Side Story* (September, 2007). In the article, he gave credit to Stephen Sondheim for *Cats*. Sondheim is responsible for "many... smash hits," as Slomovits said, but *Cats* is not among them. Sondheim's hits include *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Sweeney Todd, A Little Night Music, Company,* and *Follies.*

Cats, of course, is the work of Andrew Lloyd Webber (with Trevor Nunn and T. S. Eliot), whose style seems to me about as different from Sondheim's as is possible."

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Books

Reporter's notebook

Probing how Walt and Mearsheimer misunderstand the pro-Israel lobby

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Covering Israel, its relationship with the United States, and the influential lobby that straddles the two often requires the basic skills and instincts of a cub reporter on the neighborhood beat.

With that in mind, I approached *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy,* the new book by scholars John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, as I would a map of my neighborhood drawn up by an urban planning critic who has a known bias against gentrification. You know it will emphasize blight and ignore greenery to the point of unfairness, but you're interested anyway because you might learn something, confront a discomfiting truth or two and get an idea of how to make things better.

Imagine the surprise, then, with the map laid out on the table, you see unrecognizable quadrants describing non-existent dungeons and moonscapes. Is this guy on drugs? you might wonder.

Sitting across from Mearsheimer, a political science professor at the University of Chicago, and Walt, an international affairs professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, in the lobby of the Madison Hotel in Washington, it was obvious these guys were not on drugs. But why did they make up stuff?

Clearly this was not going to be a routine book tour interview, and I tried to make that known from the outset. I explained that I was not going to settle for the usual "How did you get your ideas?" sort of questions because their ideas seemed so strikingly wrong.

Others have called the Walt-Mearsheimer writings borderline anti-Semitic. I don't think so, but their fantastic claims—particularly about Israel, the lobby's role in the lead-up to the Iraq war and the creation of the Bush administration hostility to Syria—demand answers.

First let me emphasize that just as "The Israel Lobby" is severely flawed on many counts, the book has its strong points and weak points that merit less than a tidal wave of condemnation. For starters, the chapter outlining who and what constitutes the pro-Israel lobby and how these combined forces exercises their influence in Washington is a useful consolidation of reporting by others.

The chapters on what the authors describe as Israel's dwindling moral standing and decreasing strategic values to the United States invite plenty of disagreement on several fronts, but the authors do ask some hard and helpful questions about how the lobby functions and whether more discussion on Middle East policy matters would be useful.

The chapter on Israel's dealings with the Palestinians is certainly one-sided, omitting or downplaying crucial information that would provide the uninformed and unbiased readers with a balanced picture, but at least the arguments put forth by Mearsheimer and Walt are grounded in an existing Palestinian and pro-Palestinian narrative.

It is on the subject of the Iraq war -- specifically the effort to assign blame to Jerusalem and Jewish organizations -- that the authors go off the rails. On this question, I asked Mearsheimer and Walt particularly about their focus on Paul Wolfowitz, the former deputy defense secretary who was an architect of the war.

Why, I wondered, no mention of Wolfowitz's many writings on the general idea of pre-emptive action, his efforts as the lead U.S. official shepherding democracy into the Philippines and Indonesia in the 1980s?

And what about his 2003 endorsement of the Geneva agreements positing Israel's return to pre-1967 lines, made explicitly because he believed the Israel-Palestinian issue had to be solved if Iraq was to succeed? (To say the lobby was less than enthusiastic about the Geneva agreements would be an understatement.) Were these not more germane to understanding his commitment to war with Iraq than rumors of his commitment to Israel?

Mearsheimer responded: "We're not making the argument that they were monomaniacal, that the United States had to invade Iraq for Israeli benefits."

Yet absent other evidence of the Bush administration's commitment to invade Iraq, that is exactly how their book comes across. The writers assemble quotes from leaders in Jerusalem to show that while Israel "did not initiate the campaign for war against Iraq," it "did join forces with the neoconservatives to help sell the war to the Bush administration and the American people."

The idea that Israel joined with neoconservatives to "sell" Bush on Iraq posits an inversion of how Washington operates—especially under this administration. Bush's proxies made it clear to Jewish leaders—and just about everyone else—in the first days of the administration that the tradition of joining forces on areas of agreement and agreeing to disagree on all else was null: You either signed on with the whole Bush agenda or you were frozen out.

And so, as 2002 wore into 2003, every interest group in this town that needed access to an immensely popular president—the media, the Democrats and, yes, Jewish and pro-Israel groups—signed on more or less to the White House policy that arched over all others: invading Iraq.

The authors weren't buying.

"Never mind" also characterizes the authors' response to my questions about the recent revelation by Lawrence Wilkerson, Colin Powell's planning chief at the State Department and a fierce critic of the Pentagon neoconservatives who pushed for war, that Israeli leaders prior to the invasion made it clear that they thought Iran was the real threat and Iraq was a distraction.

"Once it became clear that the United States intended to do Iran and Syria after it handled Iraq, the Israelis quickly bought into the enterprise and pushed us very hard," Mearsheimer said.

But who was the "us" being pushed if the Israelis were being pushed by the Bush administration?

It is one thing for the authors to omit telling details that would undermine their

continued on next page

Jewish self-help books flood market

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—Got a question?

Rabbi Jennifer Krause has the answer: Keep asking questions.

"I want to help people trust their ability to come up with the answers that fit their own lives rather than depending on the one-size-fits-all answers that others give them," says Krause, a New York rabbi whose first book, *The Answer: Making Sense of Life One Question at a Time* (A Perigee Book), is scheduled to hit the shelves October 2.

Krause divides her self-help book into seven chapters, each of which addresses a universal "why am I here" question. It's action oriented: Written exercises at the end of each chapter encourage readers to identify their personal needs and obstacles.

"Use your 'highlighter,' " she urges on page 166. "What stirs your heart to action? What will you 'walk the line' for?"

Although her book is aimed at the general reader rather than a specifically Jewish audience, Krause says this method of self-improvement, which relies on conversation that emerges from questions, is deeply Jewish.

"I'm not giving people answers," she says. "I want to reintroduce the power of the questions themselves."

The Answer is part of the hugely popular and still-growing genre of personal growth literature that has spilled over into the world of Jewish publishing with a vengeance.

"Self-help books are very much a function of the age," says Rabbi Elliot Dorff, the rector of the American Jewish University, formerly the University of Judaism, in Los Angeles and author of *The Way into Tikkun Olam*, published this spring by Jewish Lights Publishing. "People are focused on themselves, and it's not seen as narcissistic."

Written frequently by rabbis or Jewish educators, Jewish self-help books range from those that advocate a return to religious observance to ones based loosely on Jewish values. What they share is the aim of using these spiritual or psychological tools to set an ethical path aimed at improving one's life and the world at large.

"There are no clear-cut halachot," or Jewish laws, on how to feel better about oneself, says Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, the author of a string of best-selling books about Jewish wisdom. "It's not like the laws of keeping kosher. You're looking to advice that's strewn throughout Torah, throughout Talmud."

Stuart Matlins is the publisher of the Vermont-based Jewish Lights, which has been putting out this genre of literature for years.

"The difference is not in the availability of the material suddenly but the increased interest in it," he says.

It's no coincidence that many of these books appear in late summer or early fall, right around the High Holy Days—a period when Jews traditionally are engaged in self-reflection. Krause says she didn't plan for her book to come out during Sukkot, but nevertheless considers the timing "bashert," or decided by heaven.

Jewish Lights this fall is publishing *Happiness and the Human Spirit: The Spirituality of Becoming the Best You Can Be*, by Abraham Twerski, a prominent Orthodox rabbi and psychiatrist who has written dozens of books about spirituality and self-esteem.

Twerski, who developed many of his ideas as medical director of The Gateway Rehabilitation Center he founded in rural Pennsylvania, posits a definition for spirituality that has little to do with God or Jewish theology.

For him, being spiritual is developing one's human capabilities to the fullest, "to be the best we can be, to exercise all the qualities and traits that are unique to humankind," Twerski says. And only by reaching for that spiritual development can one be happy, he concludes.

Like Krause, Twerski writes about actual exercises for the reader, from being nice to someone against whom you hold a grudge to mowing the lawn for your father. The reader is encouraged to keep a journal to record these deeds.

"Remember, you are not doing this for someone else," writesTwerski, who now lives in Monsey, N.Y. "You are doing this to improve your character, to be more spiritual, to be a happier person."

Like many other authors of Jewish self-help books, Twerski takes the universal human desire to be happy and shows how it is intertwined with doing good—which means, doing Jewish.

Even more clearly aimed at High Holy Days reading is *God's To-Do List: 103 Ways to Be an Angel and Do God's Work on Earth* by Ron Wolfson, an education professor at the American Jewish University and co-founder of Synagogue 3000, a synagogue renewal initiative.

First published by Jewish Lights last October, the book has caught on among rabbis and teachers this year as a foil for High Holy Days programming. Some 12,000 copies have been printed, which Matlins says testifies to the popularity of the genre as well as *God's To-Do List.*

Some rabbis are devoting their Rosh Hashanah sermons to the book, asking their congregations to read it during the 10 Days of Awe—the book is divided into 10 chapters to facilitate that use—and coming together as a group afterward for discussion.

Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn of Temple Emanuel in Winston Salem, North Carolina, will speak on "doing God's work" for his Rosh Hashanah Eve sermon. He has ordered 300 copies of Wolfson's book to hand out to his 250-member congregation.

"Everyone will take a book and, hopefully, read a chapter a day," Strauss-Cohn says. "On Yom Kippur afternoon it will be one of our discussion topics."

Temple Israel, a large Reform congregation in Westport, Connecticut, is going further. Not only is every family being given a copy of the book, Rabbi Bob Orkand says he will ask them to "reflect on what it suggests and develop a contract of what they are willing to do in the coming year to be 'one of God's angels.' "

Orkand says the congregation has never done a project of this scale.

Rabbi David Levy, director of Jewish life at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, is building his weekly lunch-'n'-learn sessions for the entire academic year around the book — 10 months, one chapter a month.

Each month he hopes students will plan an event in the Student Center calling on their fellow students to "be an angel" by perhaps setting up a phone bank and asking passers-by to "take two minutes and call your mother."

The lessons in these Jewish self-help books are universal, say the authors and those planning to use the books for programming.

"We're not going to be jumping into doing lots of ritual mitzvot," notes Strauss-Cohn, emphasizing that his congregation is Reform. "But living ethical lives is something we can all get behind." ■;

Probing from previous page

theory. When it comes to America's Syrian policy, however, they omit whole trends.

Mearsheimer and Walt ignore Israel's panic—reported by JTA and othes—in late 2005 when it became clear that elements in the Bush administration were seeking regime change in Syria as "transformative." Israeli officials strove to make clear that they had outlined all post-regime scenarios and none of them were good.

Bush's fury with the Syrians for undermining the single Middle Eastern success of his pro-democracy policy, Lebanon's "Cedar Revolution"—repeated in dozens of White House statements—receives no mention in the Mearsheimer-Walt book. In fact, the only time the authors cite the successful ouster of Syrian occupation forces is when arguing that Israel's policies are inviting their return.

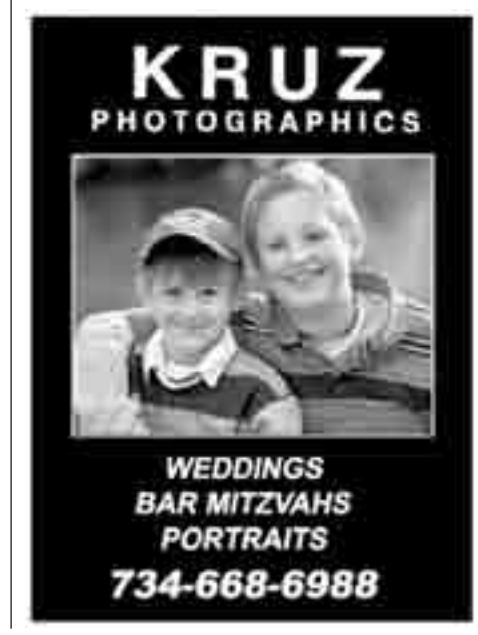
The authors forcefully rejected complaints that their book suffers from a lack of original research.

"The critical issue is whether or not we would tell a different story or someone else would tell a different story if they did more extensive interviewing than we did," Mearsheimer said. "And we're confident that would not be the case. We regard the story as basically correct, and doing more interviewing would not alter the story line in any way."

Yet such research would have led them to learn that it was not AIPAC but congressional Republicans who during last year's Lebanon war undercut the efforts by Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), then the minority leader in the U.S. House of Representatives, to include a line in a pro-Israel resolution urging "all sides to protect innocent civilian life." It would have led them to report that it was White House pressure, in part, that pushed Israel this April to distance itself for a week or so from Pelosi's efforts to assure Syria that Israel did not want war.

Questions about how Jews, Israel, the pro-Israel lobby and the U.S. government interact are critically important and beg for a little light. But *The Israel Lobby* is not the place to start. All Walt and Mearsheimer have achieved with their massive diversion based on unfounded accusations of overly broad Jewish influence is to help those who want to shut down that discussion. ■

Ron Kampeas is JTA's Washington bureau chief.



Dairy works for Sukkot dinners, too

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Dairy gets short shrift on the Sukkot dinner menu.

Jewish cookbooks typically feature plenty of recipes for hearty soups and stews, tzimmes and brisket.

"Sukkot is a time of celebration and rejoicing," says Rabbi Sue Ann Wasserman, director of the Department of Worship, Music and Religious Living for the Union for Reform Judaism. "In a purely customary way, meat is seen as a bigger deal than dairy foods."

Many Jews will consume milk and cheese for breakfast and lunch during the holiday's eight days, but there's no *halacha*, (Jewish law), that says dairy is taboo for the main meal of the harvest festival.

Unlike latkes at Chanukah, charoset at Passover or hamantaschen at Purim, Sukkot never became associated with specific dishes, Wasserman says. This leaves options on what to prepare during Sukkot.

Soups, stews and casseroles have become popular at Sukkot, particularly among those living in colder climates. These dishes are relatively easy to bring outdoors, and they're more likely to retain their heat inside a chilly sukkah far longer than food presented on platters.

"Our sukkah sits on a porch behind our house," Wasserman says. "We ferry everything to the back. We eat a lot of soup during Sukkot. My husband is our family cook, and he's a great soup maker." In many parts of the country it's beginning to get chilly outside, so soup is a warming way to start a meal.

Stews make sense because they are portable and one can practically have an entire meal in one pot, she adds. "You don't have to transport as many dishes of food outside," Wasserman says. "All you need to do is add noodles or rice."

Drawing on the holiday's culinary themes, Creamy Carrot Ginger Soup falls into the genre of thick soups, which symbolize the bounty of the harvest. Spinach and cheese casseroles, hailing from many Sephardic cultures, including Italy and Greece, are perennially popular at dairy meals throughout the year.

Confections calling for the season's sweetest apples have been a staple of Sukkot desserts.

Over the centuries, Sephardim and Ashkenazim immigrated to Brazil and adapted local fish stews to the laws of kashrut, finding them filling yet lighter than meat stews. The Brazilian-style snapper recipe below makes a colorful and piquant entree during Sukkot.

Wasserman says her family doesn't change its dining ways during Sukkot.

"On some nights we eat meat for dinner, while on others we have noodle pudding and fish," she says. "But I would guess we indulge in more desserts."

As Sukkot is a simcha, a joyous celebration, it is customary to eat meat, explains Menachem Genack, the rabbinic administrator of the Orthodox Union.

"Meat must have been rare during biblical times, that's why it was saved for special occasions," Genack says. "There is joy in eating meat. The sacrifices were made with meat."

Genack says that because of the festive nature of simchas, the evening meal should be significant, meaning it should consist of several courses.

"However, if eating fish is your joy, then it's appropriate to do so during Sukkos, even at night," Genack says.

Wasserman says that because Sukkot is a harvest festival, some may think it a vegetarian holiday.

"Although many Jews eat the same fruits and vegetables hanging inside of their sukkahs, the holiday didn't evolve in a vegetarian direction," she says.

During Sukkot, the ancient Israelites traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem carrying offerings of animals, grains, fruit, oil and wine. As the holiday marked the end of the growing season, thousands of people were able to journey to Jerusalem to offer thanks for the year's plentiful crops.

In biblical times, Sukkot was celebrated with great revelry, and people dwelled in temporary huts— a precursor to today's home-built sukkahs that are so creatively decorated with seasonal produce and artwork.

Genack strongly urges drinking wine with dairy dinners during Sukkot, like one would with a celebratory meal featuring meat.

"Wine represents joy and gladdens the heart," he says.

Since the early 1980s, kosher wines have become increasingly more pleasing to sophisticated palates. Complementing most fish entrees, including the menu below, several wine varietals would enhance the dairy dinner experience.

In the red wine category, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel are excellent choices for mildly spiced stews. Among white wines, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Grigio pair nicely with fish.

Has Genack ever eaten fish for dinner at Sukkot?

"Yes, of course," he says.

"Why not? If you've had enough meat during the days of Sukkos, then by all means partake in a dairy meal." ■

Creamy Carrot Ginger Soup

Equipment:
Blender and (optional) soup terrine

Ingredients:
2 medium onions, chopped
4 tablespoons olive oil
5 cups canned or fresh vegetable broth, or more, if needed
16 medium sized carrots, peeled and cut into carrot sticks
4 large potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
4-inch knob of ginger, peeled and diced finely
3 cups homogenized milk
Salt and white pepper to taste

Preparation:
1. In a medium-sized pot, saute and stir onions in olive oil until transparent, about 5 minutes. Add broth, carrots, potatoes and ginger. Cover pot and bring to a boil on a low flame. Simmer until solids are mushy, about 15 minutes. (Add more broth if mixture becomes dry.)
2. Uncover pot and cool contents for handling. Ladle contents in 4 batches, one batch at a time, into a blender and puree. Pour pureed batches from blender into a large pot.
3. Add milk to puree. Combine milk and puree with a spoon. Add salt and white pepper. Recipe can be prepared to this point 2 days in advance. Cover and refrigerate until ready to proceed.
4. Warm soup on a low flame until simmering. Check seasonings and adjust. In the meantime, fill a soup terrine with hot water and cover. When ready to serve soup, discard water and dry terrine with a towel. Carefully ladle hot soup into terrine and carry to the sukkah. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Four Cheese Spinach Souffle

Equipment:
7-cup souffle dish or equivalent size round, deep casserole

Ingredients:
3 10-ounce packages frozen chopped spinach
1 tablespoon butter
15-ounce container of ricotta cheese
1 egg
2 cups mozzarella cheese shredded, or an 8-ounce package pre-shredded
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
2 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups Asiago cheese grated, or a 5-ounce container pre-shredded

Preparation:
1. Prepare spinach according to instructions on package; cool spinach enough to handle. Place spinach in a colander, press on it with your hand and drain as much excess water as possible. Reserve in colander.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat souffle dish with butter.
3. In a large mixing bowl, beat ricotta and egg. Mix in mozzarella, Parmesan, flour, red pepper and salt. Add spinach and mix with a spoon until well combined. Spoon spinach mixture into souffle dish. Recipe can be made to this point a day in advance. Cover and refrigerate until continuing.
4. Evenly sprinkle Asiago cheese on top of spinach mixture. Place souffle in oven and bake 20-30 minutes, or until it bubbles and the cheese forms a golden brown crust. Serve immediately. Yield: 8-10 servings.

Brazilian Style Snapper Stew

Equipment:
Enamel cast-iron pot in an attractive color is recommended, so stew can be prepared and served in the same pot that retains its heat outdoors.

Ingredients:
5 red snapper fillets, skinned
Juice of 1 lime
7 tablespoons olive oil, or more if needed
Kosher salt to taste
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
1 large onion, diced
6 cloves garlic, minced
1 green bell pepper, diced
12 Italian plum tomatoes, chopped coarsely
3/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
14-ounce can unsweetened coconut milk
1 cup cilantro, chopped
6 scallions, finely chopped
White rice, prepared according to package instructions

Preparation:
1. Rinse fillets under cold water. Pat dry with paper towels. Place in a non-metallic bowl. Drizzle with lime juice and 3 tablespoons of olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and white pepper. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator while assembling remaining ingredients. (Fillets may whiten from acid in lime.)
2. In a large pot, heat 4 tablespoons of olive oil on a medium flame and saute onion, garlic and green pepper for 5 minutes, stirring often to avoid burning.
3. Add tomatoes, crushed red pepper and salt to taste. Cover pot and simmer for 15 minutes, until tomatoes start releasing sauce. Stir often and reduce flame, if necessary.
4. Place a strainer over a bowl. Pour coconut milk through the strainer and discard gloppy solids. Turn off flame. To the pot, add coconut milk, 1/2 cup cilantro, 3 scallions and fillets, including marinade. Submerge fillets in cooking liquid. Cover pot and simmer on a medium flame for 10 minutes or until fillets turn opaque and are cooked through. Recipe can be made to this point a day in advance. Cover and refrigerate. Reheat on a low flame before proceeding.
5. Sprinkle remaining cilantro and scallions on top of stew. Serve with white rice. Yield: 10 servings.

129th UMS Season

2007|2008

October

Beethoven Sonata Project Concerts 1 & 2
András Schiff piano
WED, OCT 3 | 8 PM
FRI, OCT 5 | 8 PM
Rackham Auditorium

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM (WED 10/3)
Piano Sonata No. 1 in f minor, Op. 2, No. 1
Piano Sonata No. 2 in A Major, Op. 2, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 3 in C Major, Op. 2, No. 3
Piano Sonata No. 4 in E-flat Major, Op. 7

ALL-BEETHOVEN PROGRAM (FRI 10/5)
Piano Sonata No. 5 in c minor, Op. 10, No. 1
Piano Sonata No. 6 in F Major, Op. 10, No. 2
Piano Sonata No. 7 in D Major, Op. 10, No. 3
Piano Sonata No. 8 in c minor, Op. 13 ("Pathetique")

The Wednesday performance is supported by the **Morris and Beverly Baker Foundation in memory of Morris D. Baker.**
The Friday performance is supported by an anonymous donor.
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Filarmonica della Scala
Riccardo Chailly conductor
Ben Heppner tenor
SAT, OCT 6 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM
Wagner — Prelude to Act III from *Lohengrin*
Wagner — Wesendonk Lieder
Wagner — Scene from *Die Walküre* (Act I, Scene 3) "Siegmund, heiß ich und Siegmund bin ich!"
Respighi — Fountains of Rome
Respighi — Pines of Rome

Sponsored by University of Michigan Health System
Supported by the **Charles H. Gershenson Trust, Maurice Binkow, Trustee.**
Hosted by **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund.**
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Krystian Zimerman piano
FRI, OCT 12 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

"Zimerman's approach to playing the piano has greatness written all over it. It has intensity, majesty, intimacy, daring, and simplicity, and above all insight." (*The Times*, London) Zimerman returns for his first Ann Arbor appearance in 25 years. Program to be announced.

Supported by **Donald L. Morelock.**
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM**.

Dianne Reeves
with special guest Romero Lubambo guitar
Peter Martin piano | **Reuben Rogers** bass | **Greg Hutchinson** drums
SAT, OCT 13 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM,** and **Michigan Chronicle/Front Page.**

Odalan Bali
Çudamani
I Dewa Putu Berata artistic director
FRI, OCT 19 | 8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Capturing the exhilarating splendor of the Balinese temple festival, this performance features dazzling dancers, glittering costumes, and the shimmering polyrhythms of Bali.

Funded in part by the **Wallace Endowment Fund.**
Media Partner **Metro Times.**

Pamina Devi: A Cambodian Magic Flute
Choreography, traditional music arrangements, and lyrics by **Sophiline Cheam Shapiro**
Performed by the **Khmer Arts Ensemble** (Phnom Penh)
SAT, OCT 20 | 1 PM [FAMILY PERFORMANCE]
SAT, OCT 20 | 8 PM
SUN, OCT 21 | 2 PM
Power Center

In Khmer with English supertitles.

The 07/08 Family Series is sponsored by TOYOTA
Funded in part by the **Wallace Endowment Fund,** the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts,** and the **Performing Arts Fund.**
Media Partners **Michigan Radio, Between the Lines,** and **Metro Times.**

Nomads, Mystics and Troubadours
Spiritual Sounds of Central Asia
Alim Qasimov Ensemble | **The Bardic Divas** | **Badakhshan Ensemble**
WED, OCT 24 | 8 PM
Michigan Theater

Musicians from six countries present a cultural tapestry of the rich musical and poetic traditions of Central Asia in this sophisticated multi-media performance that includes a live video feed, supertitles, and a brief documentary film preceding each performing group.

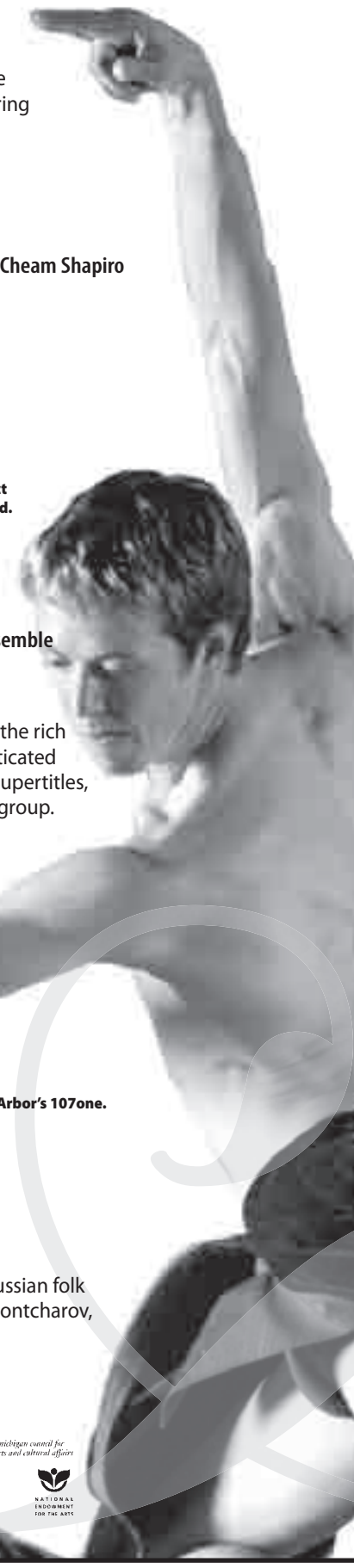
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Jim Vincent artistic director
THU, OCT 25 | 8 PM
FRI, OCT 26 | 8 PM
SAT, OCT 27 | 8 PM
Power Center

Sponsored by Pfizer, University of Michigan Health System
The 07/08 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**
Media Partners **Michigan Radio, Between the Lines, Metro Times,** and **Ann Arbor's 107one.**

Russian Patriarchate Choir
Anatoly Grindenko director
TUE, OCT 30 | 8 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Program includes liturgical music, medieval chants, and Russian folk music by Bortniansky, Rachmaninoff, Gretchaninoff, and Gontcharov, among others.

Supported by **Carl and Charlene Herstein.**
Media Partners **WRCJ 90.9 FM** and **Detroit Jewish News.**



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michigan council for arts and cultural affairs
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

October 2007

Monday 1

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Hope: Support for People Who Have Lost a Partner: TBE and JFS. New support group for widows and widowers. Five-session group facilitated by Carole Lapidos, MSW. $50. Scholarships available. To register, call Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Singalong: JCC Seniors. Bob Sims will accompany the group on piano for singing old songs, Broadway musical numbers and Jewish favorites. 1–2:30 p.m.

Benefit for Darfur: Michigan Darfur Coalition. Education and discussion to raise awareness of and involvement with the situation in Darfur and Sudan. Hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine served. $30/ticket (Ticket price not tax deductible. Tax deductible donations accepted at door.) 6–8 p.m. Presentation at 6:45 p.m. Melange Bistro, 314 South Main Street. For information, contact Aviva Simonte at avivasegar@ao.com.

Torah Study: BIC. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 2

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of Emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Classes free to adults over age 60, but they must sign up through Washtenaw Community College. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon. *Every Tuesday*.

Harvest Festival: EMU Hillel. Interested in creating a sustainable lifestyle? Curious about organic produce? Find out about sustainability, buying and using organic products and how we impact the environment. 11:30–2 p.m. outside the EMU Student Center. For information, contact audrey@emuhillel.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Led by Rabbi Sara Adler. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday*.

Wednesday 3

Hashanah Rabbah Services: Chabad. 7:30 a.m. Willow bunches will be distributed for the services.

Simchat Torah Celebration: TBE. Bring your own dinner at 6 p.m.; Israeli dancing and service at 7 p.m.; Meditation in the chapel at 8 p.m.; Adult Study Session, "A Complete Understanding of the Torah. Naw, Just Kidding," with Rabbi Levy at 8:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

Erev Shemini Atzeret Services: Chabad. Afternoon/evening service, 6:50 p.m. Special dancing with the Torah for Shemini Atzeret.

Erev Shemini Atzeret Services: AAOM. 6:55 p.m. at UM Hillel.

Erev Shemini Atzeret Services: BIC. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 4

Shemini Atzeret Torah Services: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. at UM Hillel.

Shemini Atzeret Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Shemini Atzeret Services: Chabad. Morning services and memorial services, 9:45 a.m. Evening service, 6:50 p.m.

Shemini Atzeret Yiskor service and lunch: TBE. 11 a.m.

Erev Simchat Torah: AAOM. 6:55 p.m. at UM Hillel.

Erev Simchat Torah Service: BIC. Service with hakafot (Torah processions) at 7:30 p.m. following Mincha at 7:00 p.m. and Maariv at 7:15 p.m.

Erev Simchat Torah: Chabad. All night dancing. 8 p.m.

Friday 5

Simchat Torah: BIC. Service with Shaharit service and Hallel services at 8:30 a.m.; International Shul of Pancakes breakfast, a BIC tradition, at 9:30 a.m. followed by Torah hakafot (processions) and rest of the service at 10:15 a.m. Tots and parents are invited to breakfast, followed by Tot Simchat Torah program. Mincha at 7 p.m. and Maariv at 7:15 p.m.

Simchat Torah: AAOM. Services at 9:30 a.m. at UM Hillel.

Simchat Torah: Chabad. Morning services with Torah dancing followed by annual deli lunch, 9:45 a.m. Afternoon/evening, 6:50 p.m.

Senior Time Online at the Library: JCC Seniors. Second of five continuing sessions. Learn to use the computer with other seniors and JCC friends. Reserve by calling 327-8316. Limited space. *Also 10/5,12,19,26; 11/2.*

Shabbat Dinner Out: TBE Twenties and Thirties. Location TBD. For information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tnt, email tnt@templebethemeth.org, or call 665-4744. RSVP to Dara at dara@detailsart.com.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 6

Shabbat Morning Torah Study: BIC. 9 a.m.

Baby Shabbat Service: BIC. Celebrates all births over the past year. 9:30 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Concert Outing: JFS. Concert recital for older adults to hear music by composer Bill Douglas. Concert is free, but transportation is $6 for roundtrip fare on JCS CareVan, if needed. 8 p.m. Britton Recital Hall. For more information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 7

Bike Outing and New Member Brunch: TBE. 9 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Opening Brunch: Ann Arbor Chapter of ORT. Featuring Mexican food prepared by ORT members, and a program about the ORT school in Mexico, which is making a difference in the lives of students in Mexico City. Learn how ORT helps students around the world, meet old and new friends, and learn about plans for future programming. 10 a.m. at the home of Sue Adler. For information or to RSVP, contact Joan Levitt at jflevitt@comcast.com.

Petting Zoo Visit: TBE. Tots and families will visit Domino Farms Petting Zoo. $4/person, children under 2 free. 10:30 a.m. RSVP to Julie Berson Grand at jbgrand@umich.edu.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Interfaith Workshop: TBE. "Eggs, Plagues, Trees and Dreidels: Navigating the Holidays in the Interfaith Family." 3–5 p.m. For information, contact Devon Fitzig at 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Evening Minyan: BIC. [New time through winter.] 5 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 8

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Healing the Wounds of Declining Abilities: JCC Seniors. NCCAP Certified Activities Consultant Amira Choukair Tame will discuss therapeutic and stimulating activities for seniors and their caretakers. 1–2:30 p.m.

Advanced Biblical Hebrew: TBE. [Note new date and time.] First session of 12-week semester with instructor Pauli Weizman. Two years prior Hebrew experience suggested. Focus on complete grammar and reading Hebrew prayers and biblical passages. $160/ TBE or BIC members; $200/non-members. 5–6 p.m. *Every Monday.*

"Reasonable Force" Personal Safety Workshop: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. Room 310A Student Center. RSVP to audrey@emuhillel.org.

Classes Begin: UM Hillel. Classes include Jewish Legal Issues; Exploring Judaism; Talmud; Beginning and Intermediate Hebrew; Yoga and Torah Yoga; and Cuppa Joe and the Five Books of Mo'. Call 769-0500 for information.

R'fua Sh'leima: Healing and the Jewish Imagination: TBE. Three-session class with Cantor Annie Rose. Class will examine Jewish perspectives on healing, exploring personal experiences and developing a collection of prayers and readings to use in daily life. The book, *Healing and the Jewish Imagination: Spiritual and Practical Perspectives on Judaism and Health*," edited by Rabbi William Cutter, will be available for purchase at TBE. 7:30 p.m. To sign up and to purchase a book, contact Devon at 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org. *Also 10/15 and 10/22.*

Torah Study: BIC. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Presentation: Israel IDEA. UM student group presents speaker Daniel Pipes. $10 at the door for non-students. 8:10 p.m. in Auditorium 3 of the UM Modern Language Building, 812 East Washington. Co-sponsored by Stand With Us and Zionist Organization of America.

Tuesday 9

"Preparing for the Perfect Storm: The Jewish Baby Boomer Summit:" JFS, Jewish Federation and JCC. How is the Jewish community prepared to engage and serve "baby boomers?" Nationally-acclaimed keynote speaker Mark Goldstein, president of Impact Presentations Group and co-founder of Age Wave, LLC, will present a talk entitled, "Jewish American Baby Boomers: Two Cultures Heading into a Perfect Storm." Results of this summer's JFS Baby Boomer Study will be presented and Randall Ross of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan will present the Foundation's recent survey results. Lunch will be served. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. at the JCC. Also sponsored by Jewish Family Service of Metropolitan Detroit and Jewish Family Service of Toledo. To register, or for more information, contact Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon. *Every Tuesday*.

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of Emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC. For information, call 971-0990. See 10/2. *Every Tuesday.*

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Led by Rabbi Sara Adler. 8 p.m.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 10

Matinee Musicale: JCC Seniors. Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet performs in honor of Daniel Pearl Day. The Matinee Musicale series is a multiple-concert recital series of classical music presented by the Orchestra Director Arie Lipsky and the A2SO's brass, string, and woodwind ensembles. $7/person. Refreshments at 1:30 p.m.; Performance at 2 p.m. For information, contact Laurie Wechter at laurie@jfsannarbor.org or call 971-0990.

New Members Dinner: BIC. 6 p.m.

Beginning Biblical Hebrew: TBE. First session of 12-week semester with instructor Pauli Weizman. No prior Hebrew necessary. Focus on alphabet, grammar, sound, etc. $160/ TBE or BIC members; $200/non-members. 6–7 p.m. *Every Wednesday.*

Intermediate Biblical Hebrew: TBE. [Note new date and time.] First session of 12-week semester with instructor Pauli Weizman. One

Calendar

year experience of Hebrew reading suggested. Focus on grammar and vocabulary. $160/ TBE or BIC members; $200/non-members. 7–8 p.m. *Every Wednesday.*

Israel 101: EMU Hillel. RSVP to Heather at israel@emuhillel.org. 7 p.m. at Big Bob's Lake House.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. This fall's topic is the Baal Shem Tov and his writings using the book, *Tzava'at Harivash, the Testament of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov,* translated by Jacob Immanuel Schochet (available through Amazon.com). 7:30–8:45 p.m. in TBE Chapel. For information, contact Judy Freedman at 769-1709 or email freedmanjudy@comcast.net. *Every Wednesday.*

Thursday 11

Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Michael Homel, EMU professor of History, will present "The Rise of Early Jazz." 1 p.m. in the Newman Lounge at the JCC.

Martial Arts for Health and Fitness for Youth: JCC Youth Department. For grades 2–7. Fun, energetic enrichment class that teaches boys and girls how to take care of their body and achieve a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Students learn respect for themselves and others in a fun and engaging classroom environment. $80/Kids' Konnection; $85/JCC Member; $95/Non-member. 4:15–5:15 p.m. at the JCC. For information, call Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org. *Thursdays through 11/14.*

Beginning Conversational Hebrew: TBE. First session of 12-week course led by Malli Holoshitz. No prior Hebrew necessary. Focus on basic grammar, sentence construction and vocabulary. $160/ for TBE or BIC members. $200 for non-members. 6:30–7:30 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Intermediate Conversational Hebrew: TBE. First session of 12-week course led by Malli Holoshitz. One year experience including vocabulary and grammar suggested. Focus on more depth and grammatical concepts using current musical sources. $160/ for TBE or BIC members. $200 for non-members. 7:30–8:30 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Presentation: BIC. "Recognizing Moments of Divine Presence in Daily Life," presented by Evelyn Heuhaus. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Advanced Conversational Hebrew: TBE. First session of 12-week course led by Malli Holoshitz. At least two years experience including vocabulary and grammar suggested. $160/ for TBE or BIC members. $200 for non-members. 8:30–9:30 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 12

Lunch and Learn: Pirke Avot: TBE. Rabbi Robert Levy leads the group for study of *Pirke Avot* or *Sayings of the Fathers*, a compilation of pithy rabbinic wisdom found in the middle of the mishnah's discussion of civil law, which can serve as a window into the rabbinic mind. Childcare may be available with advance notice. Noon–1 p.m. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Meditation and Learning: TBE. Focuses on the weekly parasha (Torah portion) with a teaching from Rabbi Levy followed by meditation led by Judy Freedman. All levels welcome. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. 1 p.m. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Senior Shabbat Dinner and Service: JCC and JFS. Join others for a delicious meal prepared by Amanda Fisher, musical accompaniment and a short Senior-oriented Shabbat service. $15/dinner. 5–7 p.m. at the JCC. For information or reservation and pre-payment, call 971-0990.

Kabbalat Shabbat Musical Service: BIC. With Jake Kander and Rabbi Dobrusin. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service and Discussion: AARH. Member-led short service followed by one-hour discussion. Check www.aarecon.org for this month's discussion topic. Service followed by light oneg. Childcare available by reservation to info@aarecon.org.

Family Shabbat: EMU Hillel. RSVP and advance payment required. Contact Clara at EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. in Ballroom B in the EMU Student Center.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 13

Shabbat Morning Torah Study: BIC. 9 a.m.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots ages 0–5 and their parents. 11 a.m.

Shir Chadash Café: TBE. An evening of musical variety by high school choir members. Donation at door for food and beverage. 5–10 p.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 14

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

"Noah's Ark at the Toledo Zoo:" JCC-Early Childhood Center. Help your children explore the Toledo Zoo and the wonders of all the animals on Noah's Ark. Hear the story of Noah while learning the animal names in Hebrew and discuss what the Torah has to say about our relationship and responsibility to animals. $10/adult; $8/child ages 2-11. Meet at the zoo at 10 a.m. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Pre-K Beit Sefer: AARH. Join tots, pre-kindergarteners and their families for songs, stories, crafts, snacks and special "guest puppets." Kids will have the opportunity to play "instruments" and learn some basic Israeli. For information or to RSVP, call Beit Sefer director Geoff Berdy at 649-8723.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Hike: Jewish Hikers of Michigan of TBE. Monthly hike on local trail. Singles, couples and children of all skill levels welcome. Participants encouraged to bring backpacks, munchies and drinks. Hikes last 1-1/2 to 2 hours. 1 p.m. at a location TBA. For information, visit www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/jewish_hikers_of_michigan, contact Eli at 883-9522 or Eve at 546-9645 or email jewish.hikers@gmail.com.

Interfaith Social Action Forum on Hunger and Justice. 2–4:30 p.m. For information, contact Arlene at adietz@comcast.net.

Basic Judaism Class: TBE. This 12-session class, led by Devon Fitzig and Rabbi Robert Levy, will cover Jewish theology; holidays, customs and rituals; life cycle events; pre-modern history; history of the state of Israel; and the Holocaust. Childcare may be available with advance notice. $25/non-members; no fee for members. 4 p.m. Register by calling 665-4744 or email dfitzig@templebethemeth.org. *Also 10/14,10/21 & 10/28.*

Women's Rosh Chodesh: TBE Caring Community and Sisterhood. Celebrate the new moon and month in a meaningful gathering of women. Short service followed by discussion, study session, or special presentation. Childcare available with advance notice. 6:30–7:30 p.m. Complete schedule at www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/rosh_chodesh. For information, contact Abbie Egherman at 975-0828 or aje_2001@yahoo.com.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 15

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. Writing Group meets today from 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Class: TBE. "R'fua Sh'leima: Healing and the Jewish Imagination" led by Cantor Annie Rose. *See 10/8.*

Torah Study: BIC. Led by Rabbir Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 16

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of Emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Classes free to adults over age 60, but they must sign up through Washtenaw Community College. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon. *Every Tuesday.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Screening of *A & E Biography of Yitzak Rabin*. Almost 12 years since his assassination, a look at a man whose life paralleled the history of the Jewish state. Coffee and noshes provided. Childcare available with advance notice. 1–3 p.m.

"Ripples of Genocide:" EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. at 310A EMU Student Center. RSVP to Stacey at tzedek@emuhillel.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 17

Adult Biblical Hebrew #2: TBE.

Alternative Spring Break Information Meeting: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. at EMU Hillel. RSVP to audrey@emuhillel.org.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. 7:30 p.m. *See 10/10.*

Presentation: BIC. Arnie Eisen, new Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary will make a special presentation. 8 p.m.

Thursday 18

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Barry Checkoway, UM professor of Social Work, will talk about community engagement. 1 p.m. in the Newman Room at the JCC.

Adult Conversational Hebrew #2: TBE.

Jewish Storytelling: UM Hillel. Presented by Heeb Magazine at Live at PJ's. 8 p.m.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 19

Lunch and Learn: Pirke Avot: TBE. Rabbi Robert Levy leads the group for study of *Pirke Avot* or *Sayings of the Fathers*, a compilation of pithy rabbinic wisdom found in the middle of the mishnah's discussion of civil law, which can serve as a window into the rabbinic mind. Childcare may be available with advance notice. Noon–1 p.m. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Calendar

Meditation and Learning: TBE. Focuses on the weekly parasha (Torah portion) with a teaching from Rabbi Levy followed by meditation led by Judy Freedman. All levels welcome. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Family Shabbat: BIC and HDS. Service followed by an oneg. 6:30 p.m.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 20

Torah Study Group: BIC. 9 a.m.

Apple Picking and Haunted Hayride: TBE Twenties and Thirties. Time TBA. Event held at Wiard's Orchards. $14/person. RSVP to Ken at mayerk@umich.edu.

Field Trip: TBE. Kadima, the middle school group, will visit Wiard's Orchards. 6–10 p.m.

Kids' Night Out: JCC Youth Department. "Put on Your Happy Feet" themed evening includes pizza dinner, veggies, make-your-own sundaes, games, arts and crafts, and a showing of the film *Happy Feet*. $18/members; $16/additional siblings; $22/non-members. 6:30–10 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Mystical Insights to the Torah–for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Concert Outing: JFS. Concert recital for older adults featuring guest pianist George Vatchnadze, a native of Tbilisi. Concert is free, but transportation is $6 for roundtrip fare on JCS CareVan, if needed. 8 p.m. Britton Recital Hall. For more information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 21

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Historical Tour: Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Tour of Midtown Detroit, once the home of a vibrant Jewish community, now newly restored. A representative of the University Cultural Center Association will narrate a bus tour and the group will enjoy refreshments and an excerpt from the film *Discovering Detroit's Ferry Avenue* at The Inn on Ferry Street. Departure at 12:45 p.m. from Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 27375 Bell Road, Southfield (near I-696 and M-10). $20/person. Space is limited. Reserve by 10/5. For information and reservations, call (248) 432-5517.

Bagels and FYSH: EMU Hillel. 1–3 p.m. at EMU First Year Center. RSVP to Danielle at fysh@emuhillel.org.

Open House: Frankel Jewish Academy. For prospective families and students. Tour new West Bloomfield facility; meet faculty; learn about academic and extracurricular opportunities; and meet current students and parents. 2-4 p.m. Handleman Hall and Upper Level of Jewish Community Center, 6600 West Maple Road, West Bloomfield. For information, contact Anne Van Prooyen or Dina Adelsky at 248-592-5263, ext. 250 or 227, or visit www.frankelja.org.

Class: TBE. Basic Judaism #2. 4 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 22

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *EveryMonday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Film Screening and Yiddish Open House: JCC Seniors. Showing of the film *Almonds and Raisins: A History of Yiddish Cinema*, narrated by Orson Welles. This 90-minute film interesperses film clips and interviews of Yiddish actors and directors from this re-emerging genre. Film preceded by a ten minute Yiddish lesson with Nelly Ullman. 1–2:30 p.m. JCC Newman Lounge.

Class: TBE. "R'fua Sh'leima: Healing and the Jewish Imagination" led by Cantor Annie Rose. *See 10/8.*

Under One Roof: Muslim and Jewish Women Coming Together: EMU Hillel. Year-long series that shows the similarities and differences between Muslim and Jewish women. In a non-political atmosphere, these women will share their personal stories, opinions and group reactions about living in a secular society while preserving their religious and cultural beliefs. Program is supported by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Metropolitan Detroit. 7 p.m. at EMU Hillel. For information or to RSVP, contact Gal at info@emuhillel.org or shortstuff853@sbcglobal.net.

Jewish Tattooing?: UM Hillel. Presentation and discussion. Call 769-0500 for information.

Torah Study: BIC. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 23

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of Emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Classes free to adults over age 60, but they must sign up through Washtenaw Community College. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, Noon. *Every Tuesday*.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Introduction to Judaism: BIC. Led by Rabbi Sara Adler. 8 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 24

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Session 1: The Masada: Fortress in the Desert. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Noon.

Brain Food: EMU Hillel. Bring your own lunch. 12:30–1:30 p.m. in EMU Student Center. RSVP to audrey@emuhillel.org.

Adult Biblical Hebrew #3. TBE.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Meditation and Discussion: TBE. 7:30 p.m. *See 10/10.*

Thursday 25

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy–for Women: Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 10–11 a.m., $4 or 3/$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; $3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; New American Club-an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m.; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warshausky, 2:15–3:15 p.m. at the JCC.

Presentation: JCC Seniors. Sherri Kantor will make Alaskan-style gefilte fish and talk about her trip to that frozen State. 1 p.m. in JCC Newman Room.

Adult Conversational Hebrew #3: TBE.

Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metziah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 26

Lunch and Learn: Pirke Avot: TBE. Rabbi Robert Levy leads the group for study of *Pirke Avot* or *Sayings of the Fathers*, a compilation of pithy rabbinic wisdom found in the middle of the mishnah's discussion of civil law, which can serve as a window into the rabbinic mind. Childcare may be available with advance notice. Noon–1 p.m. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Meditation and Learning: TBE. Focuses on the weekly parasha (Torah portion) with a teaching from Rabbi Levy followed by meditation led by Judy Freedman. Al levels welcome. Childcare may be available with advanced notice. 1 p.m. For information, call 665-4744. *Every Friday.*

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m. Call 971-0990.

Challahween Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6 p.m. at EMU Hillel. RSVP by 10/25 to audrey@emuhillel.org.

Field Trip: TBE. AARTY high school group visit to Wiard's Orchards. 6–10 p.m.

Monthly Shabbat Service: AARH. Tot Shabbat at 6 p.m. Musical Shabbat with vegetarian potluck at 6:15 p.m. For information, call 913-9705.

Early Childhood Center Celebrates Shabbat: JCC Early Childhood Center. All families with young children under 5 years of age are invited to welcome the Sabbath with dinner and music. ECC Frog Room children will host dinner with songs and presentations. $10/adult; $5/children ages 2 and up. 6–7:30 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or email ndeyoung@umich.edu.

Shabbat PJ Party: TBE. For kindergarteners. 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Parent's Weekend Activities: UM Hillel. Friday night services and dinner with the Late Night Players comedy group for after dinner entertainment. Cal 769-0500 for information.

Friday evening services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Saturday 27

Shabbat Torah Study Group: BIC. 9 a.m.

Torah Fund Shabbat: BIC Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Concert: TBE Brotherhood. In Sanctuary and Social Hall.

Tot Shabbat: BIC. For tots ages 0–5 and their parents. 11 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics: Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Klezmer and More Concert: TBE. Ralph Katz & Company will present a concert of music for clarinet in a variety of styles including Klezmer, Balkan, classical and popular. Assisted by Dave Gitterman on piano, Ted Wyman on piano, and other musicians from groups such as *The Ethnic Connection* and the *Klezmer Fusion Band*. $10/person. Proceeds to benefit TBE Brotherhood. 8 p.m. For information, call 663-1288.

Shabbat services: *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

Sunday 28

Torah Fund Event: BIC Women's League. 9:30 a.m.

Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book–for Women: Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Basic Judaism #3. TBE. 4 p.m.

Jewish Concepts–for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 29

English as a Second Language Daily Classes: JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org. *Every Monday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, $4/session or $10/3 sessions; $3 Dairy Luncheon Buf-

fet, noon; New American Club: an ESL class for Russian seniors, 12:30 p.m. Writing Group meets today from 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Open House: HDS. Hebrew Day School Open House for prospective parents. HDS Gan Classroom, 2937 Birch Hollow Drive. 7 p.m. For more information or to register, call 971-4633.

Torah Study: BIC. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. 8 p.m.

Tuesday 30

Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," with Dr. Lizbeth Fried. Continuation of Emeritus class through WCC. Classes are held at the JCC from 10 a.m.–noon. Classes free to adults over age 60, but they must sign up through Washtenaw Community College. For information, call 971-0990. *Every Tuesday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Pre-Mahj Brown Bag, 11:30 a.m.; Mah Jongg, noon. 1–2:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday*.

Halloween Special: Devils and Demons in Judaism: UM Hillel. Call 769-0500 for information.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussion in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Weekly Torah Portion—for Women: Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. at Chabad House. Every Tuesday.

Wednesday 31

Lunch and Learn: BIC. Session 2: Tzefat: The Home of Jewish Mysticism. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Noon.

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Service: AAOM. 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and Shavuot meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira: Family Shabbat in Song at 6:30 p.m.; Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat dinner served from 6–7:15 p.m. ($4/for Tot Shabbat dinner menu of fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, salad bar and applesauce.) Shabbat dinner served from 6–7:15 p.m. $9/person. (Weekly chicken selection and vegetarian option, side dish, salad bar, challah and beverage. Catered by Chef Lori Shepard of Simply Scrumptious.) For information, call 665-4744

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aarecon.org or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Service: Chabad House. Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. U-M Hillel.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aarecon.org.

Shabbat Services: Chabad. Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah. Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad. Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

"Mystical Insights to the Torah": Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics": Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

October 5	*5:47 p.m.*
October 12	*5:36 p.m.*
October 19	*5:24 p.m.*
October 26	*5:14 p.m.*

Celebrating Jewish Mothers – No Guilt Necessary!

Sunday, November 18, 2007
12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Jewish Community Center, Ann Arbor, MI

Come celebrate Jewish mothers of all ages - and those who love them – with lunch, music and lots of "nachas."

Featuring:

Joyce Antler**, Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University & Author of **You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother

Cost: $15 per person (includes lunch, music and entertainment)
All can attend the author discussion for free.

Make your mother a "calendar girl" with a tribute in the JFS calendar!

Share stories, photos, or a recipe of the Jewish mother in your life.
See www.jfsannarbor.org for more details.

The 7th annual JFS Jewish Book Festival Event
cosponsored by the JFS & JCC Older Adult Services.

For more information or registration details contact Abbie at JFS: 734-769-0209 or abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

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November 12–20, 2007
Conference schedule available early this fall on our website or call 734-998-9336

734-998-9339

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Housing Bureau for Seniors
www.med.umich.edu/seniors

University of Michigan Health System

United Way

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Volunteer with JFS! Visitors, tutors, special events, and office support needed, 769-0209.

Just starting a new service or business? Furniture to sell? Looking for a handyman or roommate? The *Washtenaw Jewish News* classifieds is the answer! Only $3/line enables you to reach over 5,000 readers. Ads can be emailed to wjna2@aol.com or call 971-1800.

The deadline for the November *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Tuesday, October 9. Publication date: October 30.

Service from page 17

peers to restore a neglected Jewish cemetery in Poland, and 15 students from the University of Michigan painted apartments and repaired a Jewish community center in Ukraine. Nearly 200 American Jewish students took part in the first six projects, with four more projects scheduled for this year.

- The United Jewish Communities in its new budget unveiled in June committed to partnering with Jewish funders, federations and provider organizations to induce 10 federations a year for the next three years to offer scholarships or program grants and create endowments for Jewish service programs.

These are only a handful of what is fast becoming an explosion of funding interest.

"We have been thrilled by the incredible growth of the field from a handful of projects that engage young Jews in service and provide a Jewish lens through which to understand this work to today's landscape—dozens of such programs, with opportunities to work for a week, a summer, a year, in the U.S., Israel and many other countries," says Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, program director at the Cummings Foundation and co-organizer of the May conference.

Rather than looking at Jewish service as something a teenager does and discards, Rosenn posits a continuum in which young Jews might begin with a mitzvah day, then a spring break program, then a summer program and finally an ongoing commitment to engage in social action throughout their lives.

"You have your bar or bat mitzvah, you go to Israel, you do your Jewish service," she suggests. "We envision a time when two people meet and upon discovering that they are both Jewish immediately ask, 'Oh, where did you do your term of service?' "

Follow-up to such programs is crucial. Most have alumni groups or other ways of ensuring that interest doesn't end when participants fly home.

The students who participated in "Leading Up North" in January were asked to donate $180 to charities working in the North. A total of $82,980 was raised.

Returnees from the JDC short-term programs are expected to continue advocating for their causes back on campus. Levi says the 190 former participants, all college students, have completed 78 articles or speaking engagements, and raised $36,000 for their projects.

The 32 high school students who took part in the Or Tzedek project this summer are expected to find a project to work on this fall in their home communities.

There is little hard data concerning the long-term effect such programs have in strengthening Jewish identity or bringing young people into the Jewish community.

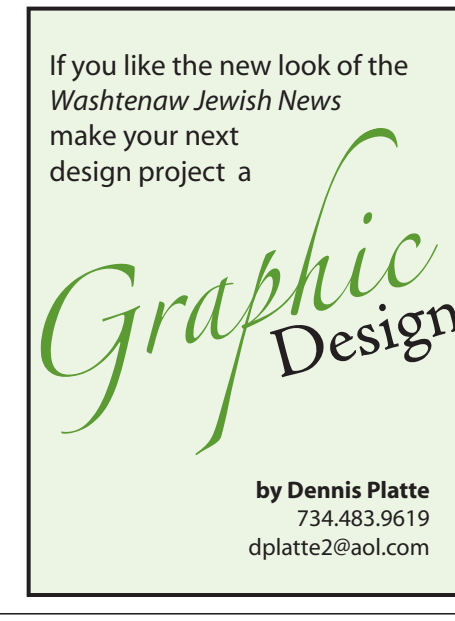
David Rosenn says that 90 percent of Avodah alumni end up working either for the Jewish community or in the field of social and political change. But this is a rarefied group of college graduates who have chosen an intensive yearlong service program; their example is hardly the norm.

This fall the UJC will begin researching the long-term impact of Jewish term-of-service programs, says Andrea Fram Plotkin, an associate director at UJC and lead staffer on the project.

Also this fall, Bronznick is spearheading a study commissioned by the Nathan Cummings Foundation to identify strategies for engaging more young Jews and Jewish organizations in social justice work.

"It's important to have a light touch," she warns. Nothing turns young people off faster, Bronznick says, than the feeling they are being manipulated by programs designed to "appeal" to them that don't offer the chance to do meaningful work.

"It's wonderful that people want to engage young Jews," she says, "but it's important to give the next generation space to create their own engagement." ■



Vitals

Mazal Tov

Mark Malakh on his bar mitzvah on October 13.
Rachel Blakemore on her bat mitzvah on October 20.
Jodie Friedman on her bat mitzvah, October 6.
Jenna Weintraub on her bat mitzvah, October 6.
Spencer Shapiro on his bar mitzvah, October 13.
Justin Moises on his bar mitzvah, October 27.
Eli Sugarman on his bar mitzvah, October 27.
Gloria and Joseph Gurt on the birth on their grandson Gideon
Avram Jeremiah Lind, born June 26, to Naomi and William Lind.

Condolences

Judith Elkin on the death of her husband, Sol Elkin.
Ed Goldman on the death of his mother, Edythe Goldman, August 13.
Eileen Rich on the death of her grandmother, Pauline Pearl Goldstein, August 19.

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Jews & the City

Join the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies for its Annual Colloquium Series featuring the 2007-08 Frankel Institute Fellows.

Upcoming colloquia include:

October 11 "Jews & the State: Debating the Architecture of Jerusalem's Western Wall Precinct" Alona Nitzan-Shiftan, Israel Institute of Technology

October 18 "Venice, the Jews & Italian Culture" Murray Baumgarten, University of California-Santa Cruz

The Frankel Institute Annual Colloquium Series is free and open to students, faculty and the general public

For a full schedule, call 734-763-9047 or visit http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic

jfs at ums

Sunday, December 9, 2007

The Claire and Isadore Bernstein Award Event

Honoring David and Phyllis Herzig

Awards & reception: 2:00 pm
Rackham Grauate Building

Concert: 4:00 pm
Leo Kottke with the Turtle Island String Quartet
Concert celebrating the Festival of Lights
presented by the University Musical Society.

$54 for ticket & reception
$18 for reception only

To register or for more information call (734) 769-0209
or visit our website at www.jfsannarbor.org.

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

Special Screening

The Rape of Europa
Featured at the 2007 JCC Jewish Film Festival

Thursday, October 25th, 7:30 p.m.
at the Michigan Theater

With Featured Speakers

LYNN NICHOLAS, author of the book on which the film was based
and
JAMES STEWARD, Director of the University of Michigan Art Museum

Arranged by the U of M Art Museum
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